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Library Association of Australasia.

— (FOUNDED 1896.) —

PROCEEDINGS

— OF THE —

Sydney Meeting,

OCTOBER, 1898.

With three Appendices:—The Programme, Guide to
the Loan Exhibition, and Library Statistics
of New South Wales.

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HENKINSON, HARRIS & COMPANY, PRINTERS AND PUBLISHERS,
DURVEY AND HAMILTON STREETS.
1898.



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INTRODUCTION.

In November, 1894, on the motion of Dr. A. Leeper, the Warden of Trinity College, Melbourne University, the Trustees of the Public Library of Victoria determined to take steps towards the foundation of a Library Association of Australasia, on lines generally similar to those of the "Library Association of the United Kingdom," and the "American Library Association." In consequence of important changes in the staff of the Public Library of Victoria, it was not until April, 1896, that a Conference of Librarians and others interested in Library work assembled in Melbourne. The movement was fortunate in having for its first President Sir John Madden, Chief Justice of Victoria, Mr. E. La T. Armstrong, LL.B., Acting Librarian of the Public Library of Victoria, as its Hon. Secretary, with a strong Organising Committee of 40 ladies and gentlemen, comprising the best known literary names of the Victorian Capital. Eighty delegates from Libraries throughout all the Australian Colonies met in Melbourne on 21st April, 1896. The proceedings commenced with a *Conversazione* and Exhibition of 507 Book Rarities, old Manuscripts, and choice samples of binding, held in the National Gallery. The reading and discussion of 13 papers on questions connected with Library Economy engaged the attention of the delegates for the next two days; after which a meeting was held on Friday, April 24th, to consider the foundation and constitution of a Library Association of Australasia. Those present formed themselves into an Association, adopted a Constitution, and decided to have the next meeting in Sydney. The following members were thereupon elected Executive Officers for the Sydney meeting:—President: Hon. Dr. James Norton, M.L.C. (President of the Board of Trustees, Public Library of New South Wales), Hon. Secretary: H. C. L. Anderson, M.A. (Principal Librarian, Public Library of New South Wales), Hon. Treasurer: Professor M. W. MacCallum, Sydney University.

It was intended to hold the Sydney Meeting at Easter, 1897, but the visit of the Hon. Secretary to the International Library Conference in London in 1897 interfered with that plan, and it was not found practicable to summon the meeting till the 4th October, 1898. In response to a number of circulars distributed to every known Library throughout Australasia 276 members and associates were enrolled, including 70 from Victoria, 28 from South Australia, 5 from Queensland, 1 from Western Australia, 3 from New Zealand, 3 from Tasmania, and 166 from New South Wales. The fact that out of over 1000 Libraries throughout these Colonies less than one-tenth of them are members of the Association shows how much missionary work has yet to be done to kindle the library spirit among the Country Committees, and to arouse some enthusiasm among even large city libraries that seem to be unconscious of their pitiful isolation and its attendant disadvantages.

The Sydney Meeting was opened on October 4th, with a *Conversazione* and Exhibition of 800 old Books, Manuscripts, Engravings, and Historical

Relics, held in the Great Hall of the Sydney University, a rough list of which is appended to this volume of Proceedings. As all the copies were struck off at the same time, it has not been possible for us to correct the misprints and errors that occurred through our great haste. His Excellency the Governor, Lady Hampden, and about 500 visitors attended this *Conversazione*, and were delighted with the Exhibition, which was continued during the next day to allow the general public to inspect some of the unique treasures which were lent for the occasion. During the three following days the members met in the Board Room of the Public Library of New South Wales, and discussed the papers as shown on the Programme included in this report. Such of the papers as were written are given almost in full, but it has not been found practicable to supply a report of the discussion, which was always in good taste, suggestive, and stimulating. Every member who attended the meeting was satisfied with the excellent beginning made, and it was generally admitted that the result would be very beneficial to all the libraries interested, both large and small. During the whole Conference there were on view two excellent exhibits of library appliances from the Library Bureau and the Library Supply Company of London. The card cabinets, model of Chivers' Indicator, Libraco pamphlet cases, shelf label holders, book supports, newspaper holders, Walker's book racks, and the Library text-books, attracted greatest attention, and many of them will doubtless soon be in use in our Country Libraries. Samples of binding in the new material pegamoid cloth, which were done in first class style by Short and Sons, of 333 Kent Street, Sydney, were on view during the whole time of the Conference. The appearance of the binding elicited very favourable criticisms; and as the Public Library of New South Wales has already used this binding for some hundreds of volumes for both Reference Library and Lending Branch, its suitability for our climate and conditions of usage will soon be tested.

At the close of the programme of papers on Friday afternoon, the members of the Association met for the purpose of amending the Constitution, and electing Officers for the next Session. The Constitution as amended is hereto appended.

It was resolved that the next meeting of the Association should be held in Adelaide in 1900.

The following Officers were then elected:—President: The Right Hon. S. J. Way, Chief Justice of South Australia; Hon. Secretary: J. R. G. Adams, Librarian of the Public Library of South Australia; Hon. Treasurer: J. P. Morice.

By the terms of the Constitution the Hon. Secretaries of the Local Branches will be *ex officio* members of the Committee, and six local members will be chosen by the Officers to form an Executive for organising the Adelaide meeting in 1900.

On the motion of Mr. A. W. Jose it was resolved:—"That the Executive Committee be requested to consider the possibility of publishing a quarterly journal containing a Synopsis of new books and other information useful to the libraries connected with this Association, and be empowered to make arrangements for its issue as early as possible."

It was also resolved on the motion of Prof. Morris:—"That a Committee consisting of Messrs. H. C. L. Anderson, E. L. T. Armstrong, and J. R. G. Adams, be requested to consider the practicability of issuing a Co-operative Index to Australian Magazines and Newspapers."

Votes of thanks were passed to those who had read papers and had taken part in the discussions; to the Hon. Dr. Norton, M.L.C., the

President, the Honorary Secretary, and to Messrs. G. H. Gifford and H. Wright, the Assistant Honorary Secretaries, for their valuable services in connection with the Conference; and by the visiting delegates to the gentlemen in Sydney who had so hospitably entertained them.

Since the close of the Conference the Minister for Public Instruction for New South Wales (Hon. J. A. Hogue, M.P.) has made a grant to the Association of £1 for every £2 subscribed by its members; and this amount of £38 will be expended in printing these Proceedings.

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LIBRARY ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALASIA.

CONSTITUTION.

(As amended, October 1898.)

1. NAME.

The Association shall be called "The Library Association of Australasia."

2. OBJECTS.

Its objects shall be to unite all persons engaged or interested in library work, in order to obtain their co-operation in all matters connected with library management, legislation, and improvement; to stimulate public interest in establishing or improving Libraries, and thus to bring the best reading within the reach of all; and in every practicable way to develop and strengthen the Public Library as an essential part of the Australian Educational System.

3. MEMBERS AND ASSOCIATES.

1. Any librarian, assistant librarian, or other person engaged in the administration of a public library, or of any library open to the public, or of the library of any public institution or department in Australasia, shall be eligible to become a member of the Association. Every such library shall be entitled to nominate a delegate belonging to the Association to attend the meetings of the Association, and such delegate may take part in the proceedings and vote at such meetings.

2. Any person not actually connected with library administration may be elected an associate by the Committee of any local branch, and such associates may take part in the proceedings and may vote. Associates shall not be entitled to the Publications of the Association.

3. The fee for Members shall be ten shillings, and for Associates five shillings per annum.

4. OFFICERS.

There shall be a President, a Secretary, and a Treasurer, all of whom shall hold office until the close of the meeting at which their successors are elected.

5. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

There shall be an Executive Committee, consisting of :—

1. The President of the Association.
2. The Hon. Secretary of the Association.
3. The Hon. Treasurer of the Association.
4. The Secretary of each local branch of the Association.
5. Six members selected by the Executive Officers residing in the Colony in which the next meeting of the Association is to be held.

6. THE HON. SECRETARY.

The Hon. Secretary shall have charge of the books, papers, and correspondence, and shall give due notice of any election, appointment, meeting, or other business requiring the personal attendance of any member.

7. THE HON. TREASURER.

The Hon. Treasurer shall keep a full and accurate account of all receipts and disbursements, with date, purpose, and amounts ; shall receive payments, pay bills, and report to the Executive Committee.

8. LOCAL BRANCHES.

The members and associates residing in each Colony shall be a local branch of the Association, which shall manage its own affairs, and control its own funds. Provided that each branch shall remit three quarters of its subscriptions each year to the Hon. Treasurer of the Association, and shall be entitled to retain the remaining quarter for its own purposes.

9. MEETINGS OF THE ASSOCIATION.

1. There shall be a biennial general meeting of the Association of which at least two (2) calendar months' notice shall be sent to each member. The Association shall fix at each meeting the place of the next meeting, provided that the same place shall not be chosen for two consecutive meetings.

2. The general meeting shall receive and consider—(a) The report of the Executive Committee and the Treasurer's report : (b) motions of which at least one month's notice shall have been given to the Secretary : (c) Papers approved by the Executive Committee, which may afterwards be discussed.

—————:O:—————

AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

A NOTE ON ITS ORIGIN AND GROWTH.

Organised October 6, 1876 ; Incorporated December 10, 1876.

ORIGIN.—“ Early in 1876 a few who believed that the great work just opening before libraries as an educational force demanded organisation and active co-operation, proposed a Library Conference in connection with the Centennial Exhibition. The hearty responses from prominent librarians led to general announcements in the press and special invitations, sent through the United States Bureau of Education, to American and leading foreign librarians. October 4, 1876, 100

enthusiastic librarians gathered in Philadelphia and spent three days in comparison of methods and active interchange of views and experience.

"The great practical benefits derived and the possibilities of progress and influence suggested by this first meeting convinced the most sceptical, and on October 6, 1876, was permanently organized the AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION, 'for the purpose of promoting the library interests of the country, and of increasing reciprocity and good will among librarians and all interested in library economy and bibliographical studies.'"

GROWTH.—"The growth of the influence of the Association was for many years very slight, hardly extending beyond the circle of its own active members. About six years ago the leaven which had been quietly working began to show itself and library methods began to be more harmonious. Similar plans were adopted for conducting the work in many libraries. Co-operative work in many lines was started. Library clubs were formed in various cities. State library associations were organised in many states. All of this work was, however, done by librarians or those directly connected with libraries. When the first state library commission was formed by action of a legislature, a great advance was made; it being the first formal recognition of the library by the state as a necessary part of the higher educational system. During 1896 the advance has been so great as to be almost beyond belief.

"The National Educational Association, the great organised body of educators of the United States, at their meeting held in July, 1896, asked for the co-operation of the American Library Association.

"The American Library Association, now twenty years old, has reached the position of being officially recognized as one of the great educational forces of our country."

—:o:—

PUBLIC LIBRARIES IN AUSTRALASIA.

SUBSIDISED BY GOVERNMENT.

The following table shows the number of Public Libraries which furnished returns, and the number of volumes belonging to them, for the latest year for which information is available:—

	No. of Libraries.	No. of Volumes.
Victoria	346	597,280
New South Wales	324	510,000
New Zealand	304	409,604
South Australia	156	242,189
Queensland	86	129,883
Tasmania	40	78,075
Western Australia	25	34,558
Australasia	1,281	2,001,589

These figures do not include the large libraries in the Capitals which belong to Public Institutions, but are not open to the Public, such as those connected with the Universities, Parliament, Colleges, Supreme

Court, Railway Institute, Clubs, Athenæum, and Subscription Libraries, which, if included, would increase the number of libraries about 20 per cent. and the total of volumes about 60 per cent. in each colony.

H.C.L.A.

—:O:—

LIBRARY ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALASIA.

OFFICERS FOR THE SYDNEY SESSION, 1898.

President: Hon. Dr. James Norton, M.L.C.
 Hon. Treasurer: Professor M. W. MacCallum, M.A.
 Hon. Secretary: H. C. L. Anderson, M.A.
 Assist. Hon. Secretaries: G. H. Gifford and Hugh Wright.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

Hon. J. F. Burns, Hon. E. Greville, M.L.C., Messrs. H. E. Barff, M.A.,
 W. M. Fairland, J. J. Fletcher, M.A., C. Hardy, B.A., A. W. Jose,
 G. H. Knibbs, A. Lee, D. S. Mitchell, M.A., Josiah Mullens,
 S. Sinclair, E. B. Taylor, F. J. Thomas, and Frank Walsh.

OFFICERS FOR THE ADELAIDE SESSION, 1900.

Patron: His Excellency the Governor.
 President: The Right Hon. S. J. Way (Chief Justice of South Australia).
 Vice-Presidents: Rev. Dr. Paton, the President of the Legislative
 Council, and the Speaker of the Assembly.
 Hon. Secretary: J. R. G. Adams, Public Library of South Australia.
 Hon. Treasurer: J. P. Morice, Parliamentary Library, Adelaide.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

Hon. Dr. Campbell, Professor Salmond, Messrs. G. K. Soward, C. R.
 Hodge, F. E. Meleng, W. B. Caw, A. Buchanan, R. Kay, S. Plint,
 Major Taylor, W. H. Ifould, J. Coleman.

OFFICERS OF THE NEW SOUTH WALES BRANCH.

Chairman: Hon. Dr. James Norton, M.L.C.
 Hon. Treasurer: Professor M. W. MacCallum, M.A.
 Hon. Secretary: H. C. L. Anderson, M.A.
 Local Hon. Secretary for Bathurst Meeting: F. F. Cheffins.
 Committee: Messrs. W. M. Fairland, C. Hardy, A. W. Jose (Sydney
 Representatives), with three others to be chosen from Country Members.

OFFICERS OF THE VICTORIAN BRANCH.

Chairman : Professor E. E. Morris, M.A.

Hon. Treasurer : H. G. Turner.

Hon. Secretary : E. La T. Armstrong, LL.B.

Committee : Dr. A. Leeper, Dr. J. P. Wilson, W. H. C. Darvall, Dr. Hall-Owen, Councillor Davies.

OFFICERS OF THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN BRANCH.

As shown above for the Adelaide Session, 1900.

:o:

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

BY HON. JAMES NORTON, LL.D., M.L.C.

I have not deemed it necessary to weary myself with the preparation, or you with the delivery, of a long and elaborate address ; but as we are now engaged in the initiation of a new departure in connection with the management of Libraries in Australasia, and as I at the present moment have the honour, of which I cannot but feel myself unworthy, of representing the Libraries not only of New South Wales but of all the Australasian colonies, it seems appropriate that I should lay before you a short *precis* of the events which, in the course of long ages, have brought about the establishment and the present methods of management of public Libraries, as also the necessity for associations to facilitate conferences and the interchange of ideas between the managers of institutions which now play so large a part in the education of the people, and in the general dissemination of useful knowledge.

It could hardly be thought fitting on the present occasion to consider the much-discussed question whether man emerged from apedom by the process of evolution or whether his appearance on the scene was the result of a direct act of the Creator of the whole universe. But, however this may be, there can be little if any doubt that he was originally much inferior in intelligence to the *homo sapiens* of the present day.

As the human race increased in number, the competition which must have existed amongst its different members gradually developed their intellectual faculties, which would necessarily be still further enlarged by means of observations handed down from father to son through the medium of the languages which they had invented, and which marked the vast difference between them and all other terrestrial beings.

When man had made the further discovery of the art of crystallizing not only his observations but even his thoughts into writing, however rude and imperfect, a tremendous further advance in civilization was made ; and those individuals whose inclinations led them that way were thus afforded the means of profiting by the experience of their predecessors, saved from the drudgery of commencing their studies *ab initio*, and enabled to carry them on from the point to which their predecessors had previously reached.

It therefore became apparent to thoughtful men of those remote times that it was desirable to collect and preserve in some form the knowledge and experience acquired from time to time, whether by accident or by studious research.

The first records which we have been able to discover appear to be those of the Assyrians and Babylonians, which were inscribed on bricks or tiles ; but, although many interesting discoveries have been made since we succeeded in deciphering the writings on these curious materials, the *books* of those days were very cumbersome and inadequate, and it cannot be questioned that a brick-kiln was a most unsatisfactory form for a library building.

The Egyptian method of inscribing their hieroglyphics on papyrus (from which word our name "paper" is derived) was a decided advance on the former system ; and it now became possible to store up literary treasures in buildings set apart wholly or partially for that purpose.

The first of these buildings of which we have any knowledge was that which, according to Diodorus Siculus, was erected by the Egyptian king Osymandryas. But a more celebrated Egyptian Library was that founded at Alexandria by Ptolemy Soter. The Library of Pergamus, founded probably by Attilus I., ultimately contained, according to Plutarch, 200,000 volumes, and was removed to Alexandria after it had been presented by Anthony to Cleopatra.

It is unnecessary to complete the list of ancient nations which formed large Libraries, or the places at which they were established.

The rolls which these Libraries contained would be invaluable at the present day ; but, alas ! almost all the collections, made at vast trouble and expense, were at various times destroyed by fire. The few rolls which escaped destruction were preserved within the sheltering walls of monasteries ; but it can hardly be possible that even one of them should be now in existence.

It is impossible for us to conceive how in ancient times 200,000 manuscript rolls could have been arranged, indexed, and managed so as to make reference to them an easy matter ; and I suspect the Libraries and their contents were maintained more as a matter of pride than anything else, and that reference to the stored-up volumes was obtained only with great difficulty by a few of the most learned, the bulk of the people being absolutely unable to read or write, and being quite indifferent to literary pursuits.

In ancient Babylon the knowledge of printing was not entirely unknown, for bricks have been found there which prove that writings or figures were transferred from one brick to another while in a soft state, and this process may really be considered as a rude beginning of stereotypic printing. The Chinese, from a very remote age even down to the present day, have been in the habit of carving their writings on blocks of wood, from which their books were then printed.

But, nearly five centuries ago, the art of printing from moveable types was discovered either in Holland or in Germany (probably in both places simultaneously) ; and the facility thereby given to the making, arranging, and the cataloguing of books gave an enormous impulse to the formation of Libraries, but it was not till long afterwards that Libraries for public use became accessible to the people generally.

Since that discovery it has been the pride of great civilized nations to establish Libraries, all more or less available for public use. The largest and most important of these, containing from about 200,000 to

upwards of 3,000,000 volumes, are in Great Britain, France, Italy, Spain, Austria, Bavaria, Prussia, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Russia, and the United States of America.

A few particulars of the Library of the British Museum—probably the finest, though not perhaps the largest, which has ever existed—may perhaps be considered interesting. This magnificent institution was started by the purchase from the executors of Sir Hans Sloane of a collection of objects of natural history, works of art, and books and manuscripts, for £20,000, and was opened in 1759. The present keeper of the Department of Printed Books, which contains upwards of 1,000,000 volumes, is helped by 3 assistants, 43 assistant keepers, and 54 attendants. The Map Department comprises 50,000 published maps and 20,000 manuscripts. The other manuscripts are under the care of a keeper, an assistant keeper, a keeper of Oriental manuscripts, and nine assistants; the management of the Library Branch being thus carried on by 113 officers.

It will be readily understood that institutions like this must require to be managed with the utmost care, that strict order must reign supreme, and that every device must be adopted for the saving of space, the facility of reference, and the preparation of complete, convenient, and reliable catalogues of the daily increasing contents.

Following the examples of the mother country and of America, the Australasian colonies have each established Public Libraries of more or less importance.

Like the British Museum and its Library, the Public Library of New South Wales was initiated as a Government Department by the purchase in 1869 from the trustees of the Australian Subscription Library of the building in which they worked and the whole of their 16,000 books for £5,100; so that our Library really dates from February 3rd, 1826, on which date the first meeting was held to form the first Library in Australia. The Governor subscribed £50, and the Colonial Secretary, Alexander McLeay, was appointed the first President. In the following year Governor Darling granted the Library two allotments in Hyde Park, lying between the Sydney College and the Roman Catholic Chapel, and now known as Cook Park; also two allotments above Rushcutters' Bay, in aid of the Building Fund. These latter were sold in 1840 for £3,384, which were used for the erection of a building which stood here with but slight alteration until 1885. The grant of the Cook Park allotments having been disallowed by Governor Bourke, the present site in Bent Street was granted by Sir George Gipps in 1842. The number of books in the Public Library on the 31st December, 1897, was 119,842, including a collection of Australasian books, which is only surpassed, if at all by that of Mr. David Scott Mitchell, M.A., of Sydney. The number of visitors in 1897 amounted to 410,987, and the number of books borrowed from the Lending Branch to 88,484, without taking into account 179 boxes, containing 14,852 books, lent and re-lent to 99 Country Libraries. The catalogues, which have been prepared with enormous trouble, are now complete up to date, so far as the author branch is concerned, and will, when absolutely complete with subject-indexes, be probably as comprehensive and perfect as any now in use, although it is of course arguable that card catalogues, such as are used in some American Libraries, are even more prompt and more economical. The total number of Public Libraries in this colony is 324, containing 510,000 volumes.

The Melbourne Library was founded in 1853, and is now managed under an Act of Parliament passed in 1869. It contains 160,342 volumes. The number of visitors in 1897 was 338,503, and of volumes borrowed from the Lending Branch 106,520. Our statistician estimates the total number of Libraries in Victoria at 424, containing 1,029,743 volumes. Of these 346 are Public Libraries, supported or subsidised by the State, which contain 597,280 volumes. I must candidly admit that in the matter of Public Libraries as a whole Victoria takes precedence of New South Wales, both in number of Libraries and of volumes, although the latter colony is much the senior in age, and is, in fact, the mother of the former. Whether the reason of this mental superiority is that the older colony is more given to politics and to hard work than to literature and mental culture, it is impossible to say; but it appears to me that the mode and time of colonization of each of these great Australian colonies sufficiently account for the difference in favor of the younger colony.

The Adelaide Library, incorporated by an Act of Parliament passed in 1856, and now managed under an Act of 1863, contains 40,539 volumes, and has an attendance of 76,822, but has no Lending Branch. South Australia has 156 Public Libraries, with 242,189 volumes.

The Hobart Library, having been first established in 1850, and having gone through many changes, was incorporated in 1870 by an Act of Parliament, and inaugurated in its present form. It is now supported partly by the Government and partly by the Municipal Council, and has a yearly attendance of 42,000. Tasmania has altogether 40 Public Libraries, in which are 78,075 volumes.

The Perth Library, established in 1889, contains 23,993 volumes, and has an attendance of 69,574, but does not lend books. Western Australia has in all only 25 Public Libraries, with 34,558 volumes.

The Auckland Library, established by the City Council in 1881, contains 34,000 volumes, and has 123,000 visitors and 800 borrowers.

All the Libraries mentioned, except the last, which is purely municipal, are managed by trustees appointed by Government.

It seems to me unfair to the Sydney Mechanics' School of Arts to omit here to mention the fact that their Library, containing 53,750 volumes, was instituted in the year 1833, and has therefore the honor of being the second Library of a public nature established in Australasia. I have been unable to obtain any reliable details as to the other Libraries of New Zealand, which I much regret, for New Zealand is a literary country, and has established fairly good Libraries at Napier, Wellington, Christchurch, and Dunedin, and has a total of 304 Libraries, containing 409,604 volumes. Nor have I succeeded in obtaining any information as to the Public Library of Queensland, founded in Brisbane last year. Indeed, the information given as to most of the Libraries mentioned is much more meagre and unsatisfactory than I could have wished. The latest statistics for Queensland show that there are 86 Public Libraries in that colony, containing 129,883 volumes.

As the various Libraries of the modern world grew in size and importance, the difficulty of managing them became daily greater, and it became evident that some scheme should be adopted for comparing the methods of each institution with those of others, and for discussing important particulars having any bearing on Library management; and it is not surprising that many meetings of Librarians should have been held in order to devise and discuss reforms and improvements.

In 1853 the first convention of Librarians that ever assembled in the

United States of America met in New York, and was attended by 53 Librarians ; but the " American Library Association " was not organized until 1876.

In 1887, 21 American Librarians went to England to attend the first General Convention of English Librarians ; on which occasion the " Library Association of the United Kingdom " was organized.

Since that time these institutions have continued to flourish, and have held periodical meetings, published journals, and done a good deal of other useful work.

The last international gathering of Librarians was held in London in July, 1897, when Mr. H. C. L. Anderson, Principal Librarian of the Public Library of New South Wales, attended as representative of New South Wales and Victoria, and not only brought the Australasian Libraries conspicuously under the notice of many learned men, who were previously almost unacquainted with their existence, but acquired a large fund of information, some of which he proposes now to lay before you.

Seeing that so much good has been done by Library Associations, it is not surprising that it was determined in Melbourne to attempt the establishment of a " Library Association of Australasia." A meeting was held accordingly in April, 1896, and was attended by delegates from 80 Australasian Libraries, the result being that the proposed association was formed, and it was determined that the next meeting should take place in Sydney. Many difficulties, which at first looked formidable, having been at last overcome, it was decided to hold the present meeting, to which I cordially welcome you.

Various papers connected with Library administration will, during the session, be read before you by gentlemen well able to deal with the matters in question, and I trust that you will find these papers not only instructive but interesting.

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THE PUBLIC LIBRARY AND THE PUBLIC.

BY E. L. ARMSTRONG, LL.B., LIBRARIAN OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARY
OF VICTORIA.

When the secretary of this association asked me to forward the title of the paper I had promised to read before this meeting I must confess that I did not anticipate any difficulty in selecting a suitable subject. But when I actually had to submit the title I found the matter not so easy to decide. Thanks to the library journals and the great advance that has been made recently in the spread of all matters relating to libraries, I found that to confine myself to practical issues, as asked, was somewhat difficult, without attempting to say things that had probably been much better said elsewhere. There are some matters in particular, however, to which we have recently been giving considerable attention in Victoria, and as I have come here to learn as much as possible I should like to hear the views of this meeting on one or two of these questions.

I would first speak then of the public in connection with our larger reference libraries.

Some years ago I was standing in the Queen's room of the Melbourne Public Library speaking to a friend, when he suddenly made this remark in a very feeling tone: "What a magnificent place this would be if it were not for the public." Of Hamlet without the Prince we have all heard, but the public library without the public had at least the charm of novelty. My friend was a man somewhat fastidious in his tastes, but even he would probably have been content with the exclusion of the undesirable portion of the public. And herein lies one difficulty to which I would like to call your attention. Are the great public libraries and their contents to be absolutely free to all members of the public, whether deserving or undeserving? The question is not a new one certainly, but notwithstanding frequent complaints in the press and elsewhere on the matter of objectionable visitors in libraries, no satisfactory solution of the difficulty has yet been put forward. I believe that the public libraries of Australia are the least restricted in the world. This is our pride, and in Melbourne at least, unrestricted admission to the building, and, what is practically free access to the shelves, have become traditions. The question is whether we pay too high a price for these privileges. That question I, for one, feel reluctantly compelled to answer in the affirmative.

Before going further, however, it might be well to say a few words^s as to the origin of this system in Victoria. In library matters in this colony, the most honoured name is still that of the founder of the public library, Sir Redmond Barry. This great man—and as I am speaking of library matters I use that term advisedly—did giant service for our colony. He may be remembered in a hundred years for other services, he will certainly be remembered as long as there is a public library in Victoria. He had great opportunities it is true, and he used them nobly. From a librarian's point of view he had many faults—they were mostly trivial ones. He had many virtues—they were all great ones. Confident as to the future of the young country for which he did so much, his work was worthy of that confidence. He would have the headquarters of literature, art, and science, side by side, under one roof. A noble treasure house, to grow gradually with the growth of the country, was planned. Here were to be collected the best examples the people could obtain, and to the people whose property they were, the freest access was to be given. A noble idea truly, and worthy of a noble mind! And I believe that generations hence the name of Sir Redmond Barry will call forth the veneration of many a scholar, and the gratitude of many an earnest student, to whom, but for him, the treasures that lie buried in the works of the masters of literature would have been inaccessible, or, at best, would have been only accessible in some inferior and unsatisfactory form. I should like to dwell just for a few moments on Sir Redmond Barry, because the ideas of the man and the work that he did were in the main so splendid and so lasting, and because I think that these ideas can still, with some modifications, be carried out. Money was, generally speaking, plentiful in Victoria in Sir Redmond Barry's time. He obtained most liberal support from Parliament. It may be that he had sometimes to fight for money, but he never shrank from that. A masterful man, he fought for a good cause, and almost always won. He demanded things in his own inimitable way, and lesser men yielded. But he used the money entrusted to him nobly. He has sometimes been accused of extravagance, and perhaps with some degree of truth. In matters pertaining to a great library, however, if errors there must be—and

the exact path of rectitude is just as narrow and difficult to follow in library matters as in other departments of life—it is far better to err on the side of extravagance than of parsimony. But I should like to hear the accusation of extravagance answered, let us say, a century hence. I do not think that fault will then be found with the pearls of literature that were bought, but I fear that blame may be attached for casting those pearls before—well, people whose very touch was a profanation. The noble folios, the fine engravings, the masterpieces of craftsmanship as well as scholarship that Barry loved, will stand out boldly to distinguish him from his fellows of a too utilitarian age. Sir Redmond Barry held, briefly, that the books in a State library should be good books; that good books were worthy of good covers; that handsome bindings, fine paper, and good type had themselves an educational value, apart from the matter in the book; that good furniture, suitable decoration, and architectural beauty, were valuable adjuncts in refining the taste, and were essentials in our principal libraries. How far he was right is a matter of opinion. Concert hall chairs, whitewashed walls, and cheap editions are excellent things in their proper place. But in our great State Libraries they are not in place, and they will never help to cultivate that sense of reverence that should be just as powerful in a great Library as in a great Cathedral. I do not, however, wish to convey the idea that Sir Redmond Barry bought only the works of the “old masters,” if I may use the term. He was most catholic in his purchases; but he bought always of the best available. He had no occasion to hesitate between a half guinea and a half crown edition, and, so far as I can judge, he never did.

Speaking generally it may surely be said that the views of Sir Redmond Barry as to the requirements of a great Reference Library were right. They have been accepted and carried out by his colleagues and his successors amongst the Trustees—at least until we fell upon evil days of want—and if the results anticipated for the enlightenment and education of the public have not been obtained by these methods, the fault lies with the public and not with the principles. But that great body known as the public, made up of all sorts of entities, may be divided for our own purpose into two—the deserving and the undeserving. If it be granted that some of the public are undeserving—and that term need only include the dirty and the dishonest—why should this section have equal privileges with the deserving; that is, for our purpose, with the cleanly and honest? I do not think it will be maintained that they should. Then comes the question how are we to discriminate? Who is to separate the sheep from the goats? It seems to me to be only possible in one way, and that is to adopt the system in vogue at the British Museum and many Continental Libraries and make each reader obtain a guarantee of respectability from some citizen of repute. I am fully seized of the difficulties of such a course. It is a retrograde step, and would be very irksome to the honest readers. Nor would it entirely serve to exclude dishonest readers. Many who now use the library legitimately would remain outside rather than comply with such a condition. Partly for these reasons, and partly because I do not think any restriction of this kind would be tolerated, I do not advocate this plan. I confess that under existing circumstances I can conceive of no satisfactory solution of the difficulty, and I would therefore suggest that we endeavour to do our best to palliate what we cannot prevent. To this end I would advise the gradual removal from the shelves and “storing” of books most likely to

be mutilated, and those which it is impossible or difficult to replace. We would still leave an ample supply for the casual reader, whilst the real student and earnest seeker after knowledge would only be put to the additional difficulty of searching a catalogue, or asking a library officer for the works which he requires, but cannot find on the shelves. He would be more than repaid for his trouble by the probability of getting a complete and clean copy of a work instead of a mutilated and dirty one. I say the probability, because there would still be mutilations. But the mere fact of having to ask for a book and return it to an attendant is a more valuable check than would perhaps appear at first sight. It certainly tends to make a reader careful and minimizes the risk. In the few cases in which we have tried this plan in the Melbourne Public Library it has been most successful. The exceptional freedom that has been given, practically without discrimination, to the general public has, in my opinion, already cost too high a price. In theory it was magnificent, but it was not wise. Our records of the last few years tell us that no department is free from mutilation. Take a few works at hazard that have suffered in this way: Black's General Atlas, Cumberland's Minor Theatre, Quain's Dictionary of Medicine, Simmonds's British Roll of Honour, Chapman's Homer, Lodge's Portraits, the Encyclopaedia Britannica, the Scientific American, Edersheim's Life of Christ, the Athenaeum, and strangest of all, volume after volume of "The Pulpit." We have hundreds of recorded mutilations—the unrecorded ones would probably run into thousands. Worst of all, the persons who commit these most contemptible thefts belong not to the most ignorant class of the community, nor indeed to any class, but to all classes.

I fear that in years to come complaints will be even more bitter than at present, when mutilations are discovered in valuable books of reference, which it will be difficult, and in some instances impossible, to replace. It is the duty of the Trustees and Librarians to do all in their power to assist the public, to avoid friction and delay and needless precautions. They have, however, a sacred trust to fulfil (at least in the great State Libraries) not only to present but to future generations, and it seems to me that it is possible to pay too high a price for popularity in public libraries as it is in other matters.

I shall now leave our larger and more strictly Reference Libraries, and turn to Lending Libraries, and the smaller, but by no means unimportant, public and subscription Libraries of the community. These I think are easier to deal with, so far as relations with the public are concerned, because they do not as a rule contain rare and exceptionally valuable books, and as the books are circulated there is less inducement to theft. I would, therefore, give the greatest facilities to the public in these libraries in the matter of access to the books, and I hope before long to be able to throw open the shelves of our Public Lending Library to all borrowers.

I propose now, as I have been asked to be practical, to submit for your consideration a charging system which appears to me to be adaptable for use in any Library. If there be any of you in doubt as to what a "charging system" is, I may explain that it means the machinery used for the issue and return of books in a Lending Library. The question of allowing access to the shelves of such a Library is an important one; but the advantages are manifest, and the difficulties can, I think, be overcome. The system of free access to the shelves of Lending Libraries has been tried in England and America, and it is at present a

frequent topic of discussion at all Library meetings. I would suggest for your consideration the following scheme, taken in the main from the system in use in the Clerkenwell Public Library, London. It seems to me that it may be used in any Library, subscription or otherwise, and with any system of classification :—

First, then, the Library should have a proper catalogue on cards, the fuller and more complete the better, as it will only be needed for reference purposes. There should also be an accession book, in which each volume in the Library should be entered in numerical sequence, and a corresponding number should be plainly stamped or affixed on the back of each volume. In addition to the catalogue, another set of cards is required. These cards should be arranged in numerical order, and each card should contain a brief entry of one volume only, under its number, which should be very plainly written in the top right hand corner of the card. A pocket should be attached to each of these cards. Assuming that a person has become entitled to borrow, and has had a ticket issued to him certifying that fact, let us follow his progress. The production of his borrower's ticket procures him access to the shelves. After looking for awhile, we will suppose he decides to borrow Dickens's *David Copperfield*, which is numbered 3470. Taking the book in his hand, he walks up to the counter (which should be placed near the exit gate), and hands the book to an attendant, together with his borrower's ticket. The attendant picks out the card numbered 3470, puts the borrower's ticket in the pocket, and places the card in a tray containing the day's issue. He then stamps in a blank page at the back of the book the date of issue, and the borrower is free to depart with his book. At the end of the day, or before opening on the following day, the issues are arranged in numerical order, and, if statistics are required, they are made out from these cards. Let us suppose the time allowed for reading is fourteen days, including the days of issue and return. Fourteen trays would be required, or better, one or two trays with fourteen movable divisions. At the end of the fourteenth day all the cards left in the first division would be overdue, and should be taken out to be specially dealt with. If the book is returned within the time allowed for reading, the attendant to whom it is given merely opens the book, looks at the date of issue, selects from the tray containing the issues of that day card No. 3470, takes the borrower's ticket from the pocket and hands it to him. The borrower is then free to go to the shelves for another book, and card No. 3470 is returned to its place till again required. This system would allow an agent to return a book and select another, but, as the original borrower is responsible, this is not a very serious objection. If it be so considered, steps can be taken to prevent the practice. If, however, the reader does not care to go to the shelf, the same machinery will answer. He hands his ticket to an attendant and asks for a copy of Dickens's *David Copperfield*. We must suppose that the attendant knows his work. If so, and the classification is a good one, he can go straight to the Fiction Division and see whether there is a copy of *David Copperfield* available. Again, suppose a reader merely wants a book on "dairy farming." He can go to the General catalogue and select a book under that heading, or he can ask an attendant to show him several books on the subject, from which he may select one. It might seem at first sight that a system of this kind would require a very large staff if the Library were largely patronised, but it has not been found so where the system has been tried.

The possibilities of theft are certainly increased, but I do not think this a serious danger, from the one fact that, apart from any moral consideration, the game is not worth the candle.

I have here tried to give the main points of what appears to me to be a good working scheme. Little refinements and adaptations can be made according to the scope of the Library and its requirements. For instance, the cards for any day's issue may, after closing, be sorted out, and the borrower's number recorded on the back of the Book Card, and the number of the book may be recorded on the Borrower's card. This would be valuable for statistical purposes, and sometimes in fixing liability for damage done to a book. An ordinary card, about three inches by two, would record from fifty to one hundred transactions, and the labour involved in replacing it by a fresh card is merely nominal.

I am confident that access to the shelves in the Lending Department will tend to bring the Public Library and the public into more cordial relations, and I think, therefore, that we are justified in taking certain minor risks in order to confer a very great benefit on those who use our Libraries.

In conclusion, and perhaps with a feeling that I have not done enough to justify the title of my paper, I should like to say a few words on the Public, or on those of it who use our Libraries. In the main, it is a very honest Public, and deserving of trust. But, in regard to the handling of books, it is a public very, very ignorant. People who consider themselves educated—and many who are sufficiently so to read good books—are grossly ignorant, are positively brutal, in their treatment of books. A man who would mutilate a good book, who would turn down the corners or otherwise illtreat it, is an uneducated man, even if it be possible to suppose him a learned one. Fair wear and tear are only to be expected. One of the truest lovers of books ever known to us, Charles Lamb, could express himself delighted with "the sullied leaves and worn-out appearance" of circulating Library books. We have no fault to find with the public for wearing out books—although there are many books that are worthy of such care that they should never wear out—but we have great fault to find with them for wilfully or carelessly destroying books. We are, I suppose, a democratic people; we talk glibly enough of compulsory education and good citizens; we have churches, schools, colleges, and universities; and, with all these, we have hundreds of our people of so low a moral tone that they think nothing of stealing freely from our Libraries. I say stealing freely, because every mutilation is a miserable theft. The most charitable thing that we can say of these people is that they are so grossly ignorant, so utterly degraded, that they do not realise their own baseness. What a satire on our methods of education? Is it possible for this Association to do anything with this portion of our Public? We hope it is a small portion. Even so, it is useless to suggest annihilation. Could we, as an alternative, do anything in the way of reformation?

LIBRARY CLASSIFICATION.

By W. H. IFOULD, CATALOGUING CLERK, PUBLIC LIBRARY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

In the management of a library, whether public or private, the foremost aim of the capable librarian is, and should be, the adoption and complete carrying out of a good system of cataloguing. So much attention is paid to this branch of library work that few librarians have the foresight or energy to give much time to the study of the kindred work of classification. Classification, though only second in importance to cataloguing, receives less attention in Australia than, it would appear from literature on library economy, it receives in the libraries of either Europe or America. Indeed on those continents the very minute systems of close classification give to this branch of library work the foremost place. Where such close systems as those of Cutter, Schwartz, Dewey, and Perkins are adopted there would seem small need for other than a bare author catalogue. But so little attention has been and is being paid to the systematic arrangement of books in Australia and so much to cataloguing that the former subject should assume a foremost place in the discussions of this Association. Almost all the libraries of Australia are wretchedly classified, not through paucity of information on the subject, but rather through a disinclination to break into old systems that have been adopted from the establishment of these libraries. It is a far harder matter to decide on altering a system of classification than it is to alter the style of a catalogue. The latter process can be gradual without any, or at any rate with small inconvenience to readers. The former necessitates the formation of a large glut staff owing to the great need for expedition in the operation. A new style of catalogue can be adopted without in the least affecting the classification, but new classification means the altering of shelf lists, possibly accessions catalogue, and the shelf marks on the books themselves and in the catalogues, besides the more mechanical work of regulating the shelving. It is not surprising then to find librarians so disinclined to depart from their old systems. Many very competent librarians are fond of the argument that, with a good catalogue there is absolutely no necessity for any systematic arrangement of books on the shelves. There is no doubt that with a good dictionary catalogue there is not so much necessity for classifying, but it does not do away with the necessity altogether. If there is one thing that would tend to create a worse impression of a library than anything else, it is to compel readers to search through scattered recesses and galleries for works on a single subject. However good the catalogue, it is a great advantage to find all information on one subject in one place. A number of people will not take the trouble to search through an exhaustive catalogue. They find it difficult to tell from the subject entries which of the many works referred to will suit them best. But when placed face to face with all, or at any rate a large majority of books on their subject, surrounded by those on kindred subjects, how much easier it becomes to choose the most likely authority. Nevertheless the library that keeps dictionaries, encyclopædias, and society publications in separate sections is infinitely better off than one with no attempt at a classification whatever. The question of closely classifying or otherwise, has exercised the minds of the great librarians of Europe and America for

a number of years, and the opinion generally prevails that a large library, or a library that is likely to largely expand, should adopt a very close system. The wide classification has one advantage over the close in that it minimises the loss of space in shelving.

Of the many individual schemes that have been elaborated by specialists, that devised by Mr. Melvil Dewey seems to have a wider acknowledgement and to be deserving of more attention and closer study than any other. It does not enter into the plan of this paper to describe any system or even to advocate the adoption of one over the others, but I do purpose giving a certain amount of space to the discussion of the applicableness of this system to the libraries of Australia. One of the most frequently used arguments against the system is that it is so extremely complicated, while all acknowledge it a system of labyrinthine ingenuity. Against this feeling it can be argued that there is no necessity for the inward workings of the system to be understood by the readers, and that a very little study and use can make the library officers sufficiently acquainted with it. The greatest argument against the scheme is to a certain extent applicable to any system of close classification, viz.:—That by dividing the subjects so minutely a large amount of shelf space must inevitably be lost owing to the necessary diversity of sizes amongst the books of one subject. Also that owing to the works on the one subject having the same decimal number it would interfere with the numerical arrangement to use different shelves for the larger books. The best way of overcoming this difficulty is by adopting a rather high standard of height for the general arrangement of the works, and to insert dummies in that arrangement for the works that by their abnormal size must be placed on larger shelves.

Another argument frequently brought forward by opposers of the scheme has reference to the numbering of the books. That by all the works on a specific subject having the same decimal numbers, it will necessitate the reader searching through a certain number of books before he finds the one he is seeking. This trouble has been overcome in America by adopting the Cutter notation in connection with the decimals of Dewey. But it seems to me that where an ordinary dictionary catalogue is used, the easiest way out of the difficulty is to give the volumes the ordinary Dewey numbering and to place underneath that a plain numbering, from 1 upwards. For instance, if the library possesses a number of histories of Italy, all bearing the Dewey numbering 945, the first volume would read $\frac{945}{1}$ the second $\frac{945}{2}$, and so on. This would be more easily understood than the cumbrous plan adopted almost universally with the Dewey decimal numbering, of adding to the Dewey number the first letter of the author's name, and if there are more than one author of that initial writing on that subject, of adding to the letter a number. This latter plan has of course an advantage in one respect that my plan cannot claim to have. For by the alphabetical arrangement of the books the necessity for always referring to the catalogue is done away with when the reader has a knowledge of the system.

The applicableness of the Dewey system to Australian libraries is a matter for serious consideration. Dewey's is an American scheme, and consequently more space is given to American divisions. Australian sections are very poorly classified, and in some classes it will be necessary for the Australian librarian to reclassify the local section and to

give it a more convenient numbering. While admitting the need for a more convenient divisioning we must be extremely careful not to depart from the main principles of the classification. One of these main principles is to divide in the first place by subject and then to divide these small subjects geographically. When reconsidering the reclassification of the Australian section the desire to place Australia higher in the scale of numbers is liable to cause inconsistency in the application of this principle. Most of the small divisions are capable of being geographically subdivided and under a consistent plan. So that if we see the decimals 42 added to one of the subjects divisible geographically, we know that the number 42 makes it an English division of that subject. To strike at the heart of the defect we must therefore go to the geographical divisions.

Dewey has arranged what he calls OCEANICA. POLAR REGIONS in the following table :—

- 990 OCEANICA. POLAR REGIONS.
- 991 MALAYSIA.
 - 1, Borneo; 2, Celebes; 3, Moluccas or Spice Islands;
 - 4, Philippine Islands.
- 992 SUNDA.
 - 1, Sumatra; 2, Java.
- 993 AUSTRALASIA.
 - 1, New Zealand; 2, New Caledonia; 3, Loyalty Islands;
 - 4, New Hebrides; 5, Solomon Islands; 6, New Britain,
 - New Ireland; 7, Admiralty Islands.
- 994 AUSTRALIA.
 - 1, Western Australia; 2, South Australia; 3, Queensland;
 - 4, New South Wales; 5, Victoria; 6, Tasmania.
- 995 NEW GUINEA.
- 996 POLYNESIA.
 - 1, Fiji, Friendly and Navigator's Islands; 2, Society,
 - Austral and Cook's Islands; 3, Marquesas Islands
 - and Low Archipelago; 4, Minor Polynesian Islands;
 - 5, Micronesia; 6, Caroline and Pelew Islands;
 - 7, Ladrone Islands; 8, Marshall and Gilbert Islands;
 - 9, Hawaii.
- 997 ISOLATED ISLANDS.
- 998 ARCTIC REGIONS.
- 999 ANTARCTIC REGIONS.

I would propose that the division be called OCEANICA. Australasia. POLAR REGIONS. As, in Australia, where so much space is given to local literature it would ill become us to hide it under the term Oceanica. It is also a very debateable point whether this term embraces Australasia. I am of opinion that it should not. Dewey numbers Australasia 993 and Australia, 994. He does not consider Australia a section of Australasia, for the number 994 is not dependent on the number for Australasia (993). But to be consistent with his main principle, that the lesser subject should bear a number that is merely an elaboration of the number for the greater subject, the number for Australasia should embody the numbers for the different colonies of Australasia. These colonies should be on a par with New Zealand, and should all bear numbers the decimal parts of 993.

Another objectionable feature in the arrangement of 990-999 is to be found in the divisions of, and in the use of the terms Polynesia and Australasia. Some of the groups of islands arranged by Dewey under Polynesia have as much right under Australasia, and the converse. I also think that these islands could be grouped together in a far better manner. We have to consider what islands are usually grouped by authors, in arranging Polynesia. When Dewey compiled this index he probably had very little literature on the South Sea Islands to help him in formulating his plan.

I take the liberty of suggesting what in my opinion will prove a far more workable arrangement for this local section.

990 OCEANICA. Australasia. POLAR REGIONS.

991 MALAYSIA.

- 1, Borneo ; 2, Celebes ; 3, Moluccas or Spice Islands ;
4, Philippine Islands.

992 SUNDA.

- 1, Sumatra ; 2, Java.

993 POLYNESIA.

- 1, Fiji ; 2, Tonga and Samoa ; 3, Cook, Austral, Society, Marquesas Islands, and Low Archipelago ; 4, Pelew, Caroline, Ladrone, and Marshall Islands ; 5, Solomon, Santa Cruz, and New Hebrides Islands ; 6, Gilbert, Ellice, Phoenix, Union, Manahika Islands, and Central Polynesian Sporades ; 7, New Caledonia and Loyalty Islands ; 8, Bismarck Archipelago and Admiralty Islands ; 9, Other Islands.

994 AUSTRALIA. NEW ZEALAND.

- 1, Western Australia ; 2, South Australia ; 3, Queensland ;
4, New South Wales ; 5, Victoria ; 6, Tasmania ;
7, New Zealand.

995 NEW GUINEA.

996 HAWAII OR SANDWICH ISLANDS.

997 ISOLATED ISLANDS.

998 ARCTIC REGIONS.

999 ANTARCTIC REGIONS.

It might be objected that I place the works on Australasia some distance away from the books on Australia, as under this arrangement the books on Australasia will be numbered 990 and those on Australia, 994. It must be remembered that the term Australasia is constantly misapplied, and that most of the books that are written on what is called Australasia will rightly come under the number 994. It might also be advanced that since there is need for a rearrangement of this section, the colonies that come under 994, Australia, might be arranged more in accordance with their importance. This is a point that only involves a matter of sentiment, and as the Public Library of South Australia had already extensively used the numbers 994 to 994.6 it was not thought advisable to alter the order of precedence.

It would be of great advantage for the Australian libraries that intend to adopt the Dewey Decimal Classification, if they could agree to adopt the same deviations from his arrangements in sections devoted to local literature. I therefore take this opportunity of suggesting alterations that might be universally adopted, I think with advantage.

In a continent like Australia where owing to the sparceness of the population, a large number of small libraries are formed, librarians, or as they are often called, secretaries, classify their books in a very rough way and on a system of their own. To such experimenters I would like to suggest two general points that often prove stumbling blocks.

1. Do not classify by form. That is:—Do not tumble all encyclopædias, dictionaries, Societies' publications, &c., together, regardless of subject.

2. Do not form, what a librarian of my acquaintance was pleased to call, an omnium gatherum. If it is difficult to place a book, be arbitrary.

Questions of book numbering are evoking a great deal of controversy. It is noteworthy that the old system of fixed notation is fast going out of fashion. The new forms of relative location are taking its place. The old plan was to number the presses and shelves, leaving the books to take their numbers from the shelf numbers. Relative location means the numbering of the books by subject. The advantages of the latter plan in general are obvious. It offers capacity for infinite expansion without the necessity for continual altering of shelf-lists and catalogues. With the fixed location we may leave spaces for the growth of certain classes, but some inadequate gaps are certain to be left for future contingencies. New branches of science and art spring up and old ones succeed no longer in occupying peoples' attention. By the new schemes of relative location the librarian can use every inch of space without the necessity for altering numbers in books, shelf-lists, or catalogues.

In the consideration of adopting any system of classification it does not follow that because a scheme has been minutely elaborated by specialists that it is necessary to adopt all its close subdivisions and classes. The extent to which it is to be adopted is purely a matter of judgment to meet the exigencies of each case. The closer divisioning can easily follow as soon as the library has grown to a sufficient size in different sections to warrant it.

Much has been said and written on the general subject of classification, and different specialists have been loud in discussing the merits of their own systems and censorious regarding any other. It seems to me that the most universally adopted system is the most worthy of consideration; and the system which combines the qualities of practical and natural arrangement with a reasonable amount of scientific order is the most likely to evolutionise into a system of universal adoption.

(Read by Mr. Adams.)



THE DEWEY CLASSIFICATION.

BY C. HARDY, B.A., ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN, SYDNEY UNIVERSITY.

It was suggested to me a few days ago by our Honorary Secretary that a short paper, descriptive of the Dewey Classification in practise, might be of some use, as very few Librarians (at least in the smaller Libraries) in Australia, were conversant with, or had given much attention to, this system.

Of course, I am well aware of the oft debated merits and demerits of the Classified and Dictionary forms of Catalogues, but, without entering into this discussion, I would heartily recommend all who are looking out for a good system to give this Classification a fair consideration. The Classified form of Catalogue, according to the Dewey System, has the great merit that it brings all books on cognate subjects together in the Catalogue and in a corresponding order on the shelves without further place marking of any kind—the class number of the book indicates the position of the book on the shelves. There is the further advantage that Librarians have here a good working system ready to hand, and, with the general adoption of it, there will be a possibility of all Librarians working together on a common basis to their mutual benefit.

The System consists of a Classification and a Relative Index—in which all branches of knowledge are divided into 9 main *Classes*, each indicated by one of the numerals, 1 to 9. The figure 1 indicates Philosophy; 2, Theology; 4, Philology; 5, Natural Science; 9, History; and so on. Books belonging to no one class, but covering all branches of knowledge (as Encyclopedias), are numbered *nought*. Each of these Classes is again divided into 9 divisions—thus: Class 9 (History) is divided into 94, History of Europe; 95, History of Asia, and so on. These again are divided into 9 sections, *e.g.*: 94 indicates, as already stated, History of Europe, while the subdivision of it, 942, is History of England, 943 History of Germany, 944 History of France, and so on through all the countries of Europe. Analysing the figures 942 we find that 9 indicates that the Book belongs to the Class History 94 that it belongs to the Division Europe, and 942 that it belongs to the Section England. Thus all the books in the Library on the History of England will be numbered 942.

This illustration will serve to indicate the method adopted in all the other branches. To take another example of the division of a class. As we have already seen, 4 indicates the Class Philology, 42 will therefore indicate works on the *English* language, 43 works on the *German*, and 44 works on the *French*, and so on; while each of these is again divided into sections, thus: 42 (English Philology) is divided into 421 Orthography, 422 Etymology, 423 Dictionaries, 425 Grammar, &c.

A cataloguer in cataloguing a book will refer in the Index printed at the end of the guide to the subject on which the book treats. Supposing it be a History of France he is cataloguing, he will refer to France in the Index, and there he will find France—History 944, and he will number the card 944 and catalogue the book in the usual way. If it be a book on the French language he will find under France—Language, the No. 440, and will proceed as before. If it be a Grammar it will be 445.

All cards bearing the same number are brought together and are then

arranged in alphabetical order of the authors, and thus we have the titles of all the books on any one subject brought together on the cards.

What I have said with regard to the cataloguer applies exactly to the reader. Should he desire to consult books on the History of France he refers to the index and finds there that Histories of France are numbered 944, and then consults all the cards in the catalogue bearing the number 944, and finds out the resources of the Library in that department. Again, should he desire to read up the History of the Peninsular War he consults the index and under the words Peninsular War, he finds the Number 946·06. He then consults all the cards bearing the Number 946·06, and finds there all the books in the Library on that subject. Analysing these figures we find that 9 indicates that the book belongs to the Class History, and 94 History of Europe, 946 History of Spain. But as the book does not treat generally on the History of Spain, but only a particular period, it has the subdivision 946·06.

If the books are placed on the shelves according to this arrangement of the cards, then we have all the *books* on any one subject brought together, and the classified catalogue becomes also a shelf catalogue. Certainly the books need not necessarily follow this arrangement, but may be placed anywhere that is convenient in the presses, and have the ordinary press and shelf marks and fixed location—but personally, I prefer the relative location.

Here one difficulty comes in the way of this arrangement, according to the classified catalogue, and that is that all the books are not of the same size, and folios and quartos must have a special place of their own, unless at a great sacrifice of space. This difficulty may be easily got over by specially marking the cards to indicate that the books are quartos or folios, and are out of the usual order.

Another point to be carefully considered is, that according to this arrangement of books, space must be provided for prospective additions in every subject—a matter requiring a good deal of foresight, and varying in the case of individual Libraries—each of which must be judged for itself.

However, if one portion should become overcrowded, and books must be removed and re-arranged on the shelves at any time, the labour is reduced to a very minimum, for it merely means re-marking the shelves and not the individual books, which latter is a most laborious task.

Again, it may be found that the books on any one subject are becoming very numerous, and still further subdivision may be necessary, in order to get at the books more readily. This is fully and easily provided for in this system. If a large number of books on the History of England have found their way into the Library, they may be subdivided in the following manner:—Thus general Histories of England will retain the number 942, books on the Anglo-Saxon Period 942·01, Norman Period 942·02, Hanoverian 942·07; while geographical divisions are provided as follows:—942·1, indicates the History of Middlesex; 942·3, History of the South-Western District; 942·8, the Northern District.

Similarly, 994 is the number given up to the History of Australia; 994·4, New South Wales; 994·5, Victoria; and each of these could be indefinitely subdivided if necessary.

In regard to books published in a series, it is probably most convenient to keep the books belonging to this series together, although they may treat of a great variety of subjects. Thus the International Scientific Series may be all kept together and entered under the Number 508, because they cover Science in general,

and cross references may be made for each individual book according to the subject of which it treats. Thus to completely catalogue one of the books (say, Trowbridge's "What is Electricity?"), both under Author-Catalogue and Class Catalogue, four cards at least will be required—two for the Author's Catalogue—one for the author and one for the series, and two in the Classed Catalogue (with which we are concerned just now), one for the series Number 508, and another bearing the Number 537 (the Number devoted to Electricity), which contains a cross reference to 508, where the book itself will be found. British Museum, and other publications of a series which it is desired to keep together, could be treated in the same way. The subject of each book may be indexed in the Classed Catalogue with a cross reference to indicate where the book may be found. As I have already said, the Classed Catalogue may be used as a shelf catalogue, and one expects to find a book on the shelves corresponding to each card in the Classed Catalogue, excepting those cards bearing a cross reference.

This system is probably used most conveniently with a *Card Catalogue*—to which, however, some object that it is likely to grow too cumbersome for ready reference—an objection which certainly holds with a complete Dictionary Catalogue on cards which soon becomes too costly to print in full.

In this system just described we would have two sets of cards—an Author Catalogue and a Classified Catalogue, which will be kept separate—and the whole or any portion of this may be printed at intervals, and the cards representing these books removed, and only cards for the additions to the printed catalogue kept for the use of the public. Thus the Author Catalogue alone may be printed and the Classified Catalogue kept complete on cards—or the Classified Catalogue alone may be printed, and if funds will not even permit this, any section of it that is in great demand may be printed, and will be complete in itself.

An arrangement of this kind seems a very economical one, and will accomplish the ends at which all catalogues aim—it will answer the two great questions asked by the public: What books are there in the Library by a certain author? and what books are there on any given subject?

Finally, it might be well to state that this arrangement of the books on the shelves will not perhaps suit the fastidious taste of those who like to see a uniform array of books on the shelves. If the books are arranged simply by their size, regardless of the subject, they will certainly look much better, though it will by no means be a useful arrangement. In this classified arrangement the books on a particular shelf will be a very varied assortment as regards size, but they will all be on one subject.



THE DECIMAL OR RELATIVE SYSTEM OF CLASSIFICATION.

BY MISS MARGARET WINDEYER.

By this system, every branch of human knowledge is grouped under the ten following heads:—

- Class 1—Philosophy.
- Class 2—Religion.
- Class 3—Sociology.
- Class 4—Philology.
- Class 5—Natural Science.
- Class 6—Useful Arts.
- Class 7—Fine Arts.
- Class 8—Literature.
- Class 9—History.
- Class 0—Works too general to be included in any particular class, such as Periodicals and Newspapers.

Each one of these classes is further divided into divisions and sections; as an example, take 512, which signifies Algebra. This number is made up as follows:—

- Class 5—Natural Science.
- Division 1—Mathematics.
- Section 2—Algebra.

Each division of a class bears a subject relation to the preceding division. Biography is in this classification a division of History, a collective biography of statesmen would be 923.2.

- Class 9—History.
- Division 2—Biography.
- Section 3—Sociology.
- Sub-Section 2—Political Economy—division of Sociology.

In using this classification the value of the index must be considered. It was designed as a guide in classifying books. Having determined the most specific head under which the book should be classed, reference to that head in the index gives the class number which should be assigned. Through the use of the index, books on the same phase of any subject, passing through the routine of classification, have the same number assigned to them, and any reader seeking these books is referred to that number.

A reader wishing to know something of Mineralogy looks in the index, and finds 549 as the class number of Mineralogy. This number guides him to all the books and pamphlets, to the shelf list, to the subject catalogue on cards, to the file of slips of books charged out at the loan desk, and in fact throughout the whole library everything bearing on this subject may be traced through this number, which will remain unchanged through all changes of shelving, building or location.

The index to the classification includes synonyms, or alternative names for the heads, and there are many entries which will help a reader to quickly find the subject sought, and by which cognate subjects are directed to his attention. Many subjects apparently omitted from the classification will be found in the index, assigned with allied subjects to a head which bears only the name of the most important subject. Appended

to the index are four alphabetical tables; the first gives a list of subjects with the class number of each, which may be sub-divided geographically; the second gives a list of form divisions, such as concordances, lexicons, encyclopedias, magazines, with the figures to be added in making such division; the third gives the class numbers for languages; the fourth gives philological divisions, with the figures to be added in sub-dividing languages.

In libraries using this classification, all the books on any given subject, and the cards in the subject catalogue, are arranged in simple numerical order, all class numbers being decimals. The most nearly allied subjects precede and follow one another, they in turn being preceded and followed by other allied subjects. The classification is mainly by subject or content, regardless of form, but an additional form-distinction for general works is found practically useful. Thus, in Science, there are many compends, dictionaries, essays, periodicals, and societies, treating of science in general, therefore having zero for the divisional figure; but as these publications treat the subject under different forms, they are divided into groups according to these forms:—

501—Philosophy, or theories of science.

502—Compends.

503—Dictionaries of science.

504—Essays, lectures, papers on science.

505—Scientific Periodicals.

506—Societies.

507—Study, Teaching, Museums.

508—Collective Works.

509—History of Science.

Such a class as Mineralogy in a large library would be divided similarly. A dictionary of Mineralogy would bear the number 549.03. A periodical devoted to any subject would bear the subject number, followed by point zero five (.05).

In Libraries where readers do not have access to the shelves and where a dictionary catalogue is used by the public, and the decimal classification is used for the arrangement of books upon the shelves, the shelf list can be used as a subject catalogue; from this it can be readily seen what the library contains on a given subject.

The foregoing remarks are, in substance, to be found in the introductory pages of the volume of the Decimal Classification.

I would recommend the use of this classification in any Library. The larger the Library the more important it is to classify closely; the decimal classification admits of this and of relative location. I send a copy of the classification used in the Radcliffe College Library, showing the variations upon the decimal system which have been adopted by that Library. A variation that would further simplify the class 800, Literature, would be to group together all writers in the English language in divisions, such as poetry, fiction, essays, humour, drama, without regard to the nationality of the author or the date of production.

As regards the method of dealing with biography adopted at Radcliffe College, I consider that the advisability of putting biographies with the subject with which the life history of the individual is concerned, largely depends upon the character of the library in which the books are placed. It is perhaps the case that in a library of science a life of Galileo might be more fittingly and usefully classed with Astronomy than with Biography, but in the greater number of libraries I consider that it would

be more desirable to put such a biography as that of Warren Hastings in the class of Biography than to put it among the books on the history of British India. The class lists of the Salem Library, which I send, illustrate the use of the decimal classification when only three figures are employed.

In the use of the decimal classification subject references of a minute kind are possible, and relative location by class and book number are secured. I think that any large library would act wisely in adopting this classification. It is not obligatory to use an author and subject card catalogue when this classification is employed, a dictionary catalogue being used in many libraries which are classified on the decimal system.

To illustrate the use of the name-catalogue and the subject-catalogue, I send several cards. The practice of using coloured cards to denote the subjects, Biography, Bibliography, and Criticism, has not been adopted by all libraries using the decimal classification. The name-catalogue contains cards bearing on the top line the name of the author, or the name of the person whose biography is the subject of the book, or an author whose work is criticised. The name-catalogue also contains the title cards made for all works of fiction, plays, and separate poems. In the subject-catalogue, cards are arranged strictly in the 1, 2, 3 order of their decimal subject-number, with the cards bearing the same subject-number arranged alphabetically by authors. In the case of a subject upon which many authors have written, A. B. C. guide cards are inserted to facilitate research. A. B. C. guides are useful also in the sub-sections of class 920, Biography, the names of the biographees—a term used to denote the subject of a biography or memoir—are arranged alphabetically, and the particular biography sought for can be more easily found if a reader can at once see where each division of the alphabet begins. Guide cards, with the call-number and a subject-heading, makes reference to the subject-catalogue a simple matter. Before each main division number is placed a card giving the sections, as follows:—

331—Capital, Labour, and Wages.

- .1 Relations of capital to labour.
- .2 Wages, comparative wages, profit sharing, compulsory insurance.
- .3 Labour of children. See also 179.2, Cruelty to children.
- .4 Labour of women. See also 396.5, Women.
- .5 Convict labour, prison contracts. See also 365, Prisons.
- .6 Pauper labour, cheap labour, Chinese labour.
- .7 Skilled and unskilled labour.
- .8 Labouring classes. See also 329.85, Labour Party.

Any library can classify its books according to the decimal system, and then place two such groups as 355, Army, Military Science, and 623, Military and Naval Engineering upon the shelves next to each other, leaving a dummy on the shelves, and a card in the subject catalogue to say that the books in division 623 had been placed next to division 355, or *vice versa*, or the dummy might say that the sections had been combined. In any small library 631, Agriculture, might, with advantage, draw to itself 668.6, Fertilizers. Possibly 140-149.9 Philosophic systems, and 180-199 Philosophers, might be arranged differently, in order that Plato's and Aristotle's works, and those of several other writers, should appear in the literature divisions or philosophy divisions only; but in its

main features the classification deserves the fullest consideration. The mnemonic value of some of the details are interesting, as for instance:—

Newspapers.		Literature.
071—	American	—810.
072—	English.	—820.
073—	German	—830.
074—	French.	—840.
075—	Italian.	—850.
076—	Spanish.	—860.

England is always 2, Italy is always 5.

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THE CUTTER BOOK NUMBERS.

BY MISS MARGARET WINDEYER.

The Cutter Book numbers were formulated by Mr. C. A. Cutter, author of the Expansive Classification. Their value, in briefly designating authors and particularising books in the same class, is so great that their use is to be advocated in all large libraries; they may be employed with any system of classification. In libraries where there are many books in the same class, the returning of books to their places on the shelves may be hastened by the use of the Cutter numbers. As the class number tells of what subject a book treats, the book-number, or lower number, in the call-number, tells the shelf assistant where to place a book and where to find a certain book among others of the same class.

The Cutter tables may be described as follows:— The first syllable of many different names beginning with the same letter are printed in columns, followed by numbers; on the other side of the column of numbers there is a column with the first syllable of names, beginning with the letter of the alphabet which follows that which begins the syllables written on the other side of the column of figures.

The following syllables are examples :

At	1	Eba	Bow	67	Col
Atc	2	Ebc	Bowl	68	Colf
Ath	3	Ebe	Box	69	Coli
Athe	4	Ebh			
Atk	5	Ebk	Boyn	71	Colm
Atl	6	Ebl	Bra	72	Colt
Ato	7	Ebo	Brae	73	Com
Att	8	Ebt	Bre	74	Con
Atw	9	Ebw	Brem	75	Cond
			Bri	76	Conf
Bland	61	Cli	Brim	77	Coo
Blo	62	Clo	Bro	78	Cov
Bo	63	Co	Broo	79	Coom
Bon	64	Coc			
Bos	65	Coe	Brow	81	Cop
Bou	66	Coh	Browni	82	Cor

Bru	83	Cos	Little	73	Mol
Bry	84	Cou	Liu	74	Mon
Bua	85	Cra	Liver	75	Moul
Bue	86	Cre	Livf	76	Mont
Bul	87	Cro	Ll	77	Moo
Bum	88	Crom			
Bura	89	Cs	Vio	81	Wo
			Vis	82	Woe
Burg	91	Cum	Vit	83	Wol
Burl	92	Cuo	Vl	84	Wom
Burn	93	Curm	Vo	85	Woo
Burr	94	Curt	Vog	86	Woodn
			Voi	87	Woodw
Lit	71	Mo	Vol	88	Wool
Littl	72	Mod	Von	89	Wor

In assigning book numbers in the class of biography, as the name of the person whose life is written, is, in the greater number of cases, more important than the name of the writer of the biography, the book number is taken from the name of the subject of the biography, not from the name of the author. An example of this may be seen in 923.17—M 7 g—the call number for the biography of James Monroe, by Gilman. This call number represents the sub-division of the decimal classification in which biographies of Presidents of the United States would be classed, with the Cutter number for Monroe below; and it illustrates the use of a small letter to denote the author of a certain biography of a person, of whom several biographies have been written. The small g shows that in the class 923.17, among the books, having M 7 as their book number, this particular book would follow those written by Everett or Foster, and precede one written by Howard.

In the use of the Cutter tables one letter is employed for names beginning with a consonant (except S), two for words beginning with vowels, or with S, and three letters are used for names beginning with S. C. One numeral is used to represent a name, two numerals are used in the case of the second of two books in the same class, when the names of the authors would require the same Cutter number.

When any name is not provided for in the tables the next preceding combination of letters is used. In the new edition of the Cutter tables three figures are given, many more syllables are carried out, and provision is made for the cases of authors with the same surname and different initials.

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FREE LIBRARY MOVEMENT IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

BY F. E. MELENG, LIBRARIAN OF PORT ADELAIDE INSTITUTE.

A question engaging the attention of those connected with Library management in South Australia is the Free Library movement, on the lines of Wm. Ewart's Act of 1850. A Bill introduced by Mr. Archibald, one of the members for Port Adelaide, has recently passed through the House of Assembly, giving Corporations and District Councils power to

establish Free Libraries within their municipalities or districts, and, if thought fit, for that purpose to purchase or take over from any person able and willing to sell or transfer the same, any existing Institute or Library : To borrow money on debentures : To declare an annual rate, not exceeding 3d. in the pound, to provide funds : To expend any portion of their revenue for the maintenance of Free Libraries : To make rules and appoint committees of management and officers of Free Libraries.

The Bill, being of a purely permissive character, enjoyed an easy passage through the Assembly, and is to be moved in the Legislative Council by the Hon. R. S. Guthrie. In the event of its passing through the second Chamber, it will then be submitted to the ratepayers. In Library circles the proposal is being favorably received. Although one clause, which reads, "To make rules and appoint committees of management and officers for Free Libraries," is considered unfriendly and likely to prevent the acceptance of the Bill by the ratepayers. Mr. Wm. Russell and Mr. Robert Woolnough, whose names must be honourably associated with the Free Library movement in South Australia, are seeking to amend the clause so that it shall read "To make rules for appointing committees of management and officers for Free Libraries." This is considered a very important point, as the Bill in its present form would mean that the committee of management would have very little control over the officers who would be appointed by the Corporation. We are well aware of the progress the Free Library movement in England has made since the adoption of the Act there, and I venture to predict that the steps now being taken in South Australia for bringing about a similar result will be attended with a due measure of success. As showing the desire of the people to avail themselves of the advantages offered by a first-class Library, but who are unfortunately prevented from so doing on account of the high rate of subscription. I have only to instance the case of the Port Adelaide Institute. In January, 1897, at a meeting of subscribers, Mr. R. Woolnough, the chairman of the Library Committee moved, "That, in order to place the Library within reach of the people, the subscription of two guineas per annum be reduced to one pound." The mover met with vigorous opposition, not only from a number of subscribers, but also by members of his own committee. Fortunately the motion was carried, and within a week one hundred new members had been enrolled. To-day our membership is nearly eight hundred, and from January to June, 1898, the issue exceeded fifty thousand volumes, as against seven thousand for the same period in 1896. This, I think, proves conclusively that the argument used "that people if anxious to read will not mind paying the subscription," does not apply as far as the Free Library is concerned.

I consider it is the duty, and should be the pleasure, of the people and those entrusted with the management of a Library, to place the stores of knowledge contained on the shelves within the reach of everybody. And, to the librarian, is it not a pleasure to know that his books are going out in all directions, into the homes of rich and poor, irrespective of class or creed?

It is proposed to form an association of the country Institutes of South Australia for the purpose of safeguarding our political interests, to collect surplus copies of magazines from the larger Institutes to be forwarded into the country, where the Institutes are not in a position, financially, to provide magazines. A conference of delegates is to be held in Adelaide some time in November, and we hope to place the

Institutes on a better footing. As secretary to the proposed association, it was my pleasure before leaving Adelaide to visit about fifty Institutes, and I found at Wallaroo the friends of the Free Library have placed at the disposal of the poorer classes a portion of their Library free of charge, in the hope that it will be succeeded by a rate-supported Library. As this matter is likely to be discussed by the people of South Australia in the near future, I am anxious to elicit discussion, and, if possible, ascertain the results obtained from the working of the Act where it has been applied in the colonies.

I would also point out that the opinion of this conference will have an important bearing on the fate of the Bill when it is placed before the ratepayers. For my own part, I say, let us assist to diffuse the means of intellectual wealth, and, in the words of Sir Edward Bulwer Lytton, "place beside the cares and passions of this common, sensual life those still monitors that instruct our youth, that direct our manhood, and comfort our old age."

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TRAVELLING LIBRARIES.

BY R. D. BOYS, B.A., ASSISTANT, PUBLIC LIBRARY OF VICTORIA.

The signal success which attended the Melbourne Public Library from its opening in the year 1856 soon induced the five original Trustees of that Institution to direct their attention to the position of those persons whom distance prevented from participating in the advantages which the resources of the Library afforded. At that time but few Libraries had been established in Victoria, and the Trustees felt that their labours should not be confined to furnishing means of gratification for the citizens of Melbourne while the residents in the country districts remained almost entirely without the beneficial influences of a Library. Moreover, the finances of the country were in a flourishing condition, while the Government of the day was composed of men in sympathy with the views of the Trustees, and, which was more to the point, ready to support them monetarily. Accordingly they set to work to devise a scheme which would not only help the Libraries which had already been started, but also tend to promote the establishment of Libraries throughout the Colony. As a result of their deliberations it was decided in April, 1859, to purchase a number of books on a variety of subjects, and to circulate these as an experiment among the country districts. Since the books had perforce to be obtained in London the month of May, 1860, arrived before the scheme could be put into operation. A start was made with 20 cases, containing 1,000 volumes, which were lent to six Libraries. It was soon found that this supply was insufficient to meet the demands which came from all parts of the Colony. New cases of books were, therefore, added from time to time as funds permitted. This practice was followed until the year 1893, but since that date no money has been placed at the disposal of the Trustees to make further additions. However, now that the period of short fare which necessitated even this form of retrenchment seems to have passed, it may be expected that Parliament will resume in

the near future the grant for the maintenance and equipment of this section, which is now called the "Travelling Libraries" branch of the Public Library of Victoria.

For the most part the conditions upon which the first instalment of the Travelling Libraries was circulated have been maintained. At the present time loans varying from one case to six cases (or from 50 volumes to 300 volumes) are made, free of charge, to the Committees of Free Libraries and Mechanics' Institutes, and to the Councils of Municipalities, for the period of one year, with a further extension of time if required. The borrowing body must give security in the form of a bond for the value of the books lent, and is responsible for any losses or for any injuries beyond reasonable wear. The books are required to be placed in a room accessible to the public during the hours the local Library is open. If the books are lent out, they must be available to both subscribers and non-subscribers upon the same conditions, although it is left to the local Committee to fix these conditions. The borrowers bear all the expenses of transport, but, under a regulation of the Victorian Railway Department, the books are returned to Melbourne by rail free of charge at the expiration of the period of loan. This concession, therefore, considerably reduces the cost of carriage, which is the sole expense the borrowers incur. The whole of the Travelling Libraries are insured at the cost of the Trustees under a fire policy covering the cases and contents wherever they may be, whether in Melbourne, in the country, or in course of transit.

There are now 132 Travelling Libraries, and on an average each one consists of 50 volumes, packed in a case, which is strongly constructed of wood, bound with brass, and lined with green baize. For purposes of lifting there are strong handles at the sides of the case, which is closed by a sliding door. The door can be removed, consequently the case serves as an open book case, and there is no necessity to remove the books in order to place them on other shelves. Each case is covered with a waterproof tarpaulin to protect it during transit. The wisdom of this provision will be understood when it is learnt that none of the cases show marks of injuries received during transit, as the covers have been proof against even the assaults of railway porters and carriers.

The books have been selected with due reference to the class of literature generally found in small country Libraries. Therefore, as novels inevitably form almost the entire stock in the general run of such collections, the claims of Fiction have received but slight consideration. There are only about 200 novels in all, consisting mainly of the works of Thackeray, Dickens, Scott, Lytton, Charles and Henry Kingsley, and Miss Edgeworth. No living writer of Fiction is represented, and the percentage is only 3. Otherwise the books range over every department of literature (with the exception of religion, which is necessarily almost excluded) in the proportions usually found in a free circulating Library of some size. The standard of the books is high, although there is a fair sprinkling of the better class of popular literature. To give a few illustrations. Poetry is represented by the principal English poets from Chaucer to Swinburne, with a goodly array of translations from the classics, and a few collections of national and popular ballads, and anthologies. The Biographical works include the standard editions of the lives of the leading men and women of letters, science and art, of sovereigns and statesmen, of soldiers and sailors, of travellers and discoverers, of all periods, with such popular books as, for example, "From Log Cabin to White House" and "The Pioneer Boy, and How He Became President." Historical and descriptive works

upon Australasia and the South Sea Islands, as well as the narratives of the discoverers and explorers of this continent, have received special attention. Works upon geology, mining, chemistry, assaying, mineralogy and metallurgy have been provided for circulation in the mining districts, while treatises on agriculture, horticulture, live stock and farming, and pastoral pursuits in general, have been added for the use of those persons who are so fortunate as to form "the backbone of the country."

The following table, however, gives the proportions in which the various classes of literature are represented in the Travelling Libraries:—

Philosophy	1 per cent.
Literature	20 per cent.
Fiction	3 per cent.
History	35 per cent.
Natural Science	15 per cent.
Useful Arts	15 per cent.
Sociology	6 per cent.
Fine Arts	2 per cent.
General works of Reference	3 per cent.

The system of free Travelling Libraries has now been in operation in Victoria for nearly 40 years. At first the circulation was confined to localities near Melbourne, but by the time the tentative stage had passed the era of railroad construction had begun. As each line of railway was opened demands came for loans, at first to form the nucleus of a library, and afterwards, as the local collections increased, to afford a fluctuating supplement. This has been the invariable history of the circulation of the Travelling Libraries. In order to give an idea of the tract of country covered by them it may be mentioned that loans have been made to 170 Libraries situated within the area extending on the north from Wodonga to Mildura, in the centre from Bruthen in Gippsland to Kaniva near the South Australian border, and on the south from Alerton to Portland. One Library has borrowed 132 cases (the total number available), another 115, a third 85.

But this system is not peculiar to Victoria. Similar methods of assisting the smaller Libraries have been in force for many years in South Australia and in New South Wales, in fact the two systems in the former Colony and in Victoria were instituted in the same year. Since the year 1893 several Library Organisations in the United States of America have adopted this plan, notably in the States of New York, Michigan, Iowa, Montana, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin. In the latter State a number of Travelling Libraries have been equipped at the personal expense of two gentlemen, for circulation among the outlying districts. In every instance the adoption of the system has met with success, and the opinion among library authorities in America indicates that it is considered to be the best method yet devised to fulfil the purposes for which it was introduced from Australia.

A research among library records has not revealed the existence of a similar scheme anterior to the year 1859, so that the credit of starting it seems to belong undoubtedly to Australia. A rather curious system, however, was formed in America about the year 1750. It was called a revolving Library, because the entire Library was to revolve among the parsonages of three parishes. This Library has kept revolving ever since, and one of its experiences is perhaps worthy of mention. It is recorded that a new arrival found it in the garret of his parsonage "dumped down on the floor like a load of coal," where it had been deposited by the wife

of a former clergyman, as the good lady considered books "unhealthy from a sanitary point of view, and would not tolerate their presence in any living room."

As the position of small Libraries, and especially of those in the country districts, is one of the most pressing questions with which this Association will have to deal, it may not be inopportune to advance an expression of opinion upon the claims of free Travelling Libraries to be recognized as a valuable factor in the present day Library movement. Wherever this system has been introduced it has been the invariable practice to entrust its management either to the Trustees of the leading Library or to a special commission. The former body has been selected in Australia to carry out the work, and it is perhaps the preferable plan. By this provision the selection of the books is placed in the hands of men who have acquired an intimate knowledge of the literary wants of the people, and who have at their command the assistance of trained officers. Contrast with this combination the position of the Committees of Management of small country Libraries. However earnest and solicitous though the latter may be to obtain a supply of good popular literature, as the majority undoubtedly are, under what disadvantages do they labour. To guide them in their selection they have for the most part a brief list of the titles of books, extracted from the newspapers, with an occasional bookseller's catalogue giving similar scant details. They are compelled to provide literature almost wholly of a light kind, but, with such paucity of information at their disposal, they are often unable to gauge the character of many books that are readily obtainable, and the result is that many good popular books, which would be widely read, are overlooked. This disability, perhaps, goes a long way to account for the predominance of Fiction in Libraries of this class. On the other hand the directing body of a large Library has the literary advice of the world available if necessary. In many instances notices of new works are received months before publication. Accordingly orders can be sent straight away, and the books received, even before the booksellers' supplies come to hand. Again, a large Library always has the first choice of books from the booksellers, while the country Institutes only come in when the demands of the regular customers have been supplied. It is true, however, that they receive special attention when it is necessary to get rid of an otherwise unsaleable stock. It is hardly necessary to point out that extensive purchasers of books obtain a much larger discount than those who buy piece-meal, so to speak, or to allude to the saving in the cost of binding, further than to advance these items of economy of expenditure as an argument in favour of the system of free Travelling Libraries.

If a Library is to be successful, if it is to obtain the support of those who are prepared to make use of it, and, if it is to retain that support, a fresh supply of literature must be provided from time to time. This feature, renewal of literature, has been truly said to be the essence of a successful Library. It is, however, not necessary for a small Institute to own books, but it is necessary for it to be able to give its readers a change of literature at periodical intervals. Free Travelling Libraries may be made to meet this want in every contingency that may arise. But, in order to do so, the books would require to be divided into several grades. For instance, the Travelling Libraries might be divided into four classes. The first, containing good popular literature, with an admixture of wholesome reading for the young, for special circulation among the class of Libraries which are housed in the State Schools throughout the country

districts. The second, consisting of a higher standard of popular literature, for the use of Libraries in small townships. The third, with the class of books similar to those in the Sydney and Melbourne Lending Library branches, for distribution among the Libraries in country towns and in the suburbs. The fourth, providing technical and scientific literature and collections of books on special subjects, for lending to Libraries in localities where Schools of Mines, Technical Colleges, Art Schools and University Extension Lectures are established. The first-mentioned class of books might also, perhaps, be circulated among communities which are too small to support a local Library, upon the requisition of a number of residents, who would be responsible for the loan. Such collections, kept either at the local State School or Post Office, would place a constant supply of good literature at the disposal of large numbers of people who are at the present time without that means of mental recreation which the perusal of a good book affords.

It is the general practice wherever Travelling Libraries have been introduced to fill a case with as many books as it will hold, and to circulate the collection without any alteration until a revision of the contents is made at the end of a number of years. Consequently the more recent books are kept together, and it is not possible to distribute them evenly among the borrowers. It would add greatly to the popularity and usefulness of the Travelling Libraries if each of the cases contained a percentage of the latest books published. Instead, therefore, of making the contents of each case a fixture, it is suggested that a certain proportion of the books should be changed with each loan, if necessary, and their place supplied with more recent works. This plan would give additional work to the distributing agency in equipping the cases, but it would pave a way for every borrowing Institute to receive a share of the current literature in stock. It would also cause extra labour in connection with the issue of lists of the books not in use, which are generally forwarded to borrowers to make a selection. For this purpose the usual printed lists of the contents of each case are very convenient, but these would have to give place to a printed catalogue, and cumulative supplements of the works added from time to time. And, when requests for loans were received, instead of merely sending out a number of printed lists, it would be necessary either to forward marked copies of the catalogue and supplements to the applicants, or to cast the extra trouble upon them. In the latter case the catalogue and supplements might be sent to the applicants, who would require to make out a list of a much larger number of volumes than they want. When this list was returned the number of cases required could be supplied with such of the books asked for as were on hand, and, if any space were left, it might be filled at the discretion of the distributing agency. However, as a good many copies of a large number of the books would be kept, the selection made could nearly always be supplied. In most cases it would, perhaps, be judicious to leave the selection of the books entirely to the distributing agency. If this course were followed the work would be much simplified. It is impossible, however, to treat this matter comprehensively in the time at my disposal now, and the principal reason for introducing it is to obtain the views of members upon the suggestion.

Of course a considerable sum of money would be annually required to carry out a system of free Travelling Libraries on the scale indicated. Still, the sum would be small in comparison with the amount of benefit which would be conferred. An annual grant of £500 would go a long way

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towards equipping and maintaining a system of this kind in Victoria, while a vote of £1,000 a year would enable such a desideratum to be attained.

But to conclude. This method of circulating books (free of cost) from 25 in number upwards, according to the size of a Library, for terms of 3, 6, or 12 months, by providing a constant supply of carefully selected current literature, both attracts local support to the borrowing Institutes, and also tends to cultivate a taste for good reading wherever the Libraries peregrinate. Experience proves that it is a practicable as well as an economical plan; that it helps to promote the establishment of Libraries, and that, by affording a fluctuating supplement to the local resources, it increases the utility of those Institutes which form the Universities of the many.

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THE CIRCULATION OF BOOK BOXES AMONGST COUNTRY INSTITUTES IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

BY J. R. G. ADAMS, LIBRARIAN, PUBLIC LIBRARY OF S. AUSTRALIA.

I am given to understand that the system in force in South Australia for circulating books amongst the various Institutes is different to that which is followed either in Victoria or in New South Wales. I am further informed that our system is in some respects considered superior to that of the colonies mentioned, and that it obtains better results. These facts, together with the expression of a hope by Mr. Anderson that a paper would be contributed from this colony on the subject of book-box exchanges, have induced me to submit for your information the following particulars.

It may be remembered that our late librarian, Mr. R. S. Benham, contributed a paper to the Conference which was held in Melbourne, in 1896, entitled "A brief account of the Country Institutes of South Australia." This paper gave an outline of the origin and growth of the Institutes, the subsidies which are voted to them, and the rules under which their business is transacted. I propose, as far as possible, to confine my remarks to the circulation of books amongst Institutes, but will be obliged to touch upon a few points to which the late Mr. Benham has alluded.

AFFILIATED INSTITUTES.

There are at the present time in the colony of South Australia 158 country, urban, or suburban Institutes, affiliated with the Public Library, Museum, and Art Gallery of South Australia. There may be other Institutes in the colony which are not affiliated, but I am unaware of them. On becoming affiliated, a special grant is generally made to an Institute by the Board of Governors of the Public Library of S. A., to enable it to meet its early expenses, which otherwise might check its progress. Such grants are paid out of a sum received annually by the

Board from the Government for the purchase of books and repairing the same, and for carriage, stationery, postages, &c., &c. The amount received for such purposes is £300 per annum, a great proportion of which is expended on books. A further sum of £200 per annum is allowed to the Board for clerical assistance, rendered by the Public Library staff in connection with Institute work. These amounts have been the same for many years, although there has been a large increase in the number of Institutes since they were fixed, and it has long been felt that £200 per annum far from represents the actual value of the work which is performed by the Board's officers in connection with Institute matters. The amount available for the purchase of new books is also insufficient, for the boxes are kept in circulation too long. I would withdraw every box as soon as it had been circulating for five years if it were possible to do so.

An Institute on becoming affiliated is entitled to the following privileges, viz. :—

1. To receive from the Government (a) An annual subsidy on its income derived solely from members' subscriptions. (b) A free copy of the *Government Gazette* regularly as issued. (c) The Papers and Proceedings of Parliament, the Parliamentary Debates, and the Acts of Parliament annually.
2. To vote annually, or oftener if necessary, for the election of three members of the Board who shall represent the Country Institutes.
3. To borrow the dissolving view apparatus.
4. To receive a box of English books, which is exchanged three times a year; also if desired, a box of German books, which is exchanged twice a year; also a parcel of six scientific and technical books for a period of three months, which may be exchanged oftener if desired.

Affiliated Institutes are required to send to the Public Library on the 1st January and the 1st July in each year, a statistical return showing income received, numbers of members, number of books, lectures delivered, &c. These particulars are carefully registered for future reference. Failure to supply these returns may result in the cancellation of the affiliation of an Institute.

An Institute is only eligible to receive a grant from the Government subsidy when its Chairman and Secretary have declared that the reading room (if the Institute has one) is open to the public, whenever it is open to subscribers, and that card playing is not permitted in the building.

DISSOLVING VIEW APPARATUS.

Dissolving view slides with the necessary lanterns and apparatus, are lent to Country Institutes on the following conditions, viz. :—

1. That they shall be exhibited by a person competent to use them properly.
2. That the Institute to which they are lent shall be responsible for any damage they may sustain between the time of their being forwarded from the Public Library and their return thereto.
3. That carriage both ways shall be paid by the Institute borrowing them.

A catalogue of about 400 slides, arranged in groups, and containing directions for the assistance of those who use the lanterns, is sent when

applied for. A set of lectures, with appropriate musical selections, is also available.

BOOK BOXES.

The boxes in which books are sent to Institutes are all of one pattern, and measure 20 ins. x 13½ ins. x 12 ins. deep. They are made of cedar, with iron-bound corners, and both book boxes and dissolving view apparatus boxes have similar locks. Thus the key which is sent to an Institute when it receives its first box of books, will open any of these boxes which that Institute may thereafter receive from the Public Library, directly or indirectly. In each box a carpet bag is fixed, so that the books may be preserved as far as possible from dust, and as the material of which these bags are made sometimes harbours moth and silver fish, naphthaline or benzine is from time to time applied to them to destroy such pests. A copy of the book box regulations, and the catalogue of the books contained in the box, are pasted on the inside of the lid of each box. These boxes cost 37/6 each. They are each lettered on the outside of the lids P.L.A., and each has a number. All boxes containing English books are in duplicate, the letter "A" after a number indicates the duplicate box. Boxes of English books contain as a rule 30 volumes, while boxes of German books average from 40 to 45 volumes. When boxes have been in circulation from seven to ten years they are withdrawn, and the books, which are generally in a fair state of preservation, are presented to the most recently affiliated Institutes; during the year ended 30th June, 1898, 450 volumes of English and 90 volumes of German books were so presented. These donations are much valued by such Institutes. The boxes are then re-numbered and filled with new books, new catalogues, of course, being pasted on the lids, and the boxes again go into circulation. Boxes occasionally require slight repairs, but they rarely sustain any serious damage, and I cannot remember any instance of a box being condemned as worn out.

BOOKS FOR BOXES.

Two-thirds of the contents of all boxes consist of fiction, and the balance of works of history, biography, travel and belles-lettres. English books are selected from those which have been favorably reviewed by the leading literary journals, and are ordered from Mudie's withdrawn lists; they are all strongly bound in half calf before being sent out. German books are purchased locally, as also are scientific and technical books.

BOOK BOX EXCHANGES.

Comparatively few boxes reach an Institute direct from the Public Library. Most of them are sent by one Institute to another. To effect this the Institutes are divided into suitable groups in order that those in each group may conveniently interchange boxes when they are instructed to do so. A scheme is drawn out before the date on which an exchange is to take place, which shows where each box is to be sent and from whence it is to come. From this scheme the different forms of advice and receipts are made out. The scheme has to be prepared with much care, so that no box shall be allotted to an Institute to which it or its duplicate has previously been sent, and so that the Secretary of an Institute may not be instructed to forward a box to another Institute with which he has no facilities for exchanging boxes. A triple form is sent to the Secretaries

of Institutes who have to forward boxes to other Institutes (a copy of each form alluded to was exhibited). This consists of :—

1. An instruction to the Secretary to forward a box (the number of which is stated), then in his possession to an Institute, of which the name is given.
2. A letter of advice to the Secretary of the Institute to which the box is to be forwarded, stating that the box has been sent on date, and mentioning how it has been dispatched. (The Secretary fills this up, signs and posts it when he has sent the box away.)
3. A letter of advice to the Librarian of the Public Library stating that the box in question has been forwarded as instructed. (This is dispatched by the Secretary of the forwarding Institute to the Librarian of the Public Library contemporaneously with No. 2, which goes to the Secretary of the receiving Institute.)

A double form is sent to Institutes which are to receive boxes from other Institutes. This comprises :

1. A notification to the Secretary of an Institute from the Librarian of the Public Library that a box (indicated by number) will be sent to him from an Institute, of which the name is given.
2. A receipt form to be filled up, signed, and sent to the Librarian of the Public Library by first post after the box has been received and its contents checked. If any books are missing or damaged this must be noted on the receipt. Failure to do this renders the receiving Institute liable for the whole. Damaged books are to be sent at once to the Librarian of the Public Library.

The Librarian of the Public Library can always ascertain, by reference to these forms, which are docketed and kept in numerical order, whether a box has been forwarded in accordance with instructions, or is being detained ; for although a Secretary may omit to send in his advice that he has dispatched a box as directed, the Secretary of the Institute at which the box in question has been received is scarcely likely to forget to send his receipt in, at any rate they will not both neglect it.

Some Institutes are so situated that they cannot exchange boxes with any other Institute. Others may have boxes which have already been to the different Institutes with which they can exchange boxes. Others again may have boxes, the books belonging to which have been reported as being in bad repair, or the locks of which have been damaged. In all these cases the boxes come to the Public Library, where their contents are at once carefully checked with the box catalogue and any missing books noted. The books are then inspected, and any which may require repair are placed in the hands of the book repairer. A supply of new locks is always kept on hand, and when necessary, a damaged lock can be replaced in a few minutes. Repairs are effected as speedily as possible, so that the boxes may be promptly dispatched to their destinations. For every box forwarded and every box received, the Secretaries of Institutes are supplied with the necessary forms of advice and receipt partially filled up, they have only to add the particulars required which they alone can supply, sign the forms, and forward them as they have

been directed to do. If within a reasonable time such forms have not been received, the delinquents are reminded by the Librarian of the Public Library of the fact. It is very unusual for a Secretary to offend persistently, but there have been cases when it has been necessary to cease to supply boxes to Institutes owing to their Secretaries failing to comply with the instructions from the Librarian of the Public Library.

We send annually three boxes of English books to 147 Institutes; to seven others we send six boxes annually, and to one we send four boxes annually. There are also 20 Institutes which take German books, to each of which two boxes of such books are sent annually, in addition to the boxes of English books.

Where Institutes are allowed more than one box of English books at one time it is owing to some special conditions. For instance, the Port Elliot Institute is always allowed two boxes from December 1st to March 31st, because during those months Port Elliot is the resort of a great many people who are spending their holidays at the seaside, and who rely to a great extent on the local Institute for their reading matter. This Institute during the rest of the year has no need for more than one box.

SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL BOOKS.

In September, 1897, the Board of Governors of the Public Library of South Australia decided to provide a selection of popular books of this character, with a view to fostering the interest in such matters that a few subscribers to many of the Institutes might reasonably be supposed to feel. About 100 works were purchased (since increased to 235 vols.), of which a catalogue was supplied to each Institute, and members are permitted to apply through their Secretaries for any of these which they want. Only six books are at present issued at one time, but this number may hereafter be increased if the demand for the books warrants the purchase of a larger collection than we now possess. The books we have purchased up to date are the Contemporary Science Series, International Scientific Series, Nature Series, Longman's Science Manuals, and a number of the works of John Ruskin, Huxley, Tyndall, Darwin, &c. The Board are very much pleased with the success which has attended their efforts in this direction, and look forward to an increased circulation of the books in this section of their Library when its existence is more generally known.

STATISTICS.

In 1897, 482 boxes of English books, and 40 boxes of German books were circulated, the total number of volumes so circulated being 16,756, or 14,460 English books and 2,296 German books. During nine months ended 30th June, 1898, 66 Institutes applied for parcels of Scientific and Technical books, 110 parcels were issued, and 540 volumes were so circulated. The total amount paid to Institutes for the year 1897-1898, as Grants-in-aid was £3,358 18s. 10d., being at the rate of 16s. 8½d. in the pound of income derived from members' subscriptions only; and for that year the Board's total expenditure on salaries, books, book repairs, carriage, stationery, postage, &c., amounted to £479 19s. 8d.

CIRCULATION OF WORKS OF FICTION.

Exception may be taken to the employment of Government money for the circulation of so much light and ephemeral literature as is contained in our circulating book boxes. The taste for such literature is not peculiar to the residents of South Australia, neither is it more developed

in its country than in its city population. Country Institutes are established for the promotion of useful knowledge and rational mental recreation—these objects are aimed at through the media of Libraries and Reading Rooms, Lectures, Conversazioni, Classes, &c. The chief factor in attaining these results is the number of members; and anything that conduces towards the increase of subscribers to an Institute tends to increase the power for good which that Institute may exercise over the community to which it belongs. It must be remembered that a large number of the subscribers to our country Institutes are people who are engaged in farming and pastoral pursuits, who read chiefly for recreation, during the seasons of the year when their duties are most arduous and fatiguing, but who may, and possibly do, at other times devote themselves to more substantial literature. Such people would probably not become subscribers to an Institute without the inducement which is offered to them in the shape of recent novels, and without their subscriptions the prosperity of the Institutes as a whole would be much interfered with. For some months past free lectures have been delivered at one Institute, the subjects have always been judiciously selected and the lecturers have generally been visitors from some other country town or from Adelaide. It required no inconsiderable amount of energy and enterprise to successfully carry out this idea. I am informed that the result has been most gratifying and the expenses have not been great, as the voluntary contributions which have been invited at each meeting, have gone a long way towards defraying such expenses. These lectures would not have been delivered probably, had it not been for the enthusiasm of the Committee and Secretary of the Institute in question, but the Institute without its works of fiction, would, I venture to think, have had no attractions for a large number of the subscribers, whose subscriptions made it possible for the Committee to provide the lectures. As a means towards an end, it appears to me that the circulation of fiction in our book boxes is not only desirable but necessary. It is no doubt a matter of regret to us all that the popular taste for fiction should be so pronounced, but by providing for such tastes we are assisted to cater for other and more deserving readers. The circulation of scientific and technical books may be regarded as an antidote to the less desirable literature which is circulated in our boxes. We wish to get readers at almost any price and we afford them the opportunity of spending their time perhaps, over harmless works of fiction. We hope that when reading has developed among these people into a habit, that a desire for something better than mere excitement will manifest itself in them, and that they will be induced to turn their attention to the works of history, biography, travels, &c., which we supply for their benefit. The scientific and technical works may probably appeal to only a few of the members of the different Institutes, but to those individuals they doubtless afford much satisfaction, and the Board feel that they are doing good service in the direction of technical education, by providing such literature. Some of the books are upon Agricultural and Pastoral pursuits, Geology, Mineralogy, Tree Culture, &c, &c., and with the object of assisting in the development of the resources of the colony, the best works on these subjects will always be available if they are called for.

In conclusion, I would say that our system works admirably, and although we would be glad to replenish the boxes oftener than we are now able to do, presumably there are no Institutes now taking boxes which would care to be deprived of them, out of date through the contents of some

of them may be. There are no formalities to be entered into by an Institute in order to obtain book boxes. No guarantee has to be provided, and the Board have not, during forty years' experience, found it necessary or desirable to suggest anything of the kind. If books belonging to our boxes are lost or damaged, as they sometimes are, the Secretary of the Institute which is responsible for such loss or damage is notified of the fact, and an account for the amount claimed is rendered. The effect of sending accounts for books lost is generally in the direction of inciting Secretaries to make efforts to recover the books; efforts which are not infrequently attended with success, but where they fail the accounts are almost invariably paid in due time without demur. The only expense other than postages in connection with its book boxes which an Institute incurs, is that of the carriage of them one way, and the rule obtains that an Institute always pays carriage on the boxes it receives. The loss of, or damage to books is not generally borne by an Institute, the subscribers who are responsible for such carelessness, are liable under their rules for such loss or damage.

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A GREAT IRISH LIBRARY.

BY DR. A. LEEFER, M.A., WARDEN OF TRINITY COLLEGE, MELBOURNE.

Short as is the time allotted me, I feel that I must use a portion of it in asking the indulgence of my hearers for coming before them at all when I am not able to speak with the authority of a professional librarian, and can scarcely hope that my paper will be of a sufficiently practical nature to merit the attention of the library-experts who have assembled at this, the second conference of the Association. That I was asked to read a paper I probably owe to the fact that I must bear the responsibility of having originated the movement for the establishment of a Library Association in this country. I was assured that an account of one of the great libraries of Europe, with which I was personally acquainted, would be acceptable.

The Library of which I propose to give a short account is one of much later origin than most of the famous libraries of Europe, though it had been accumulating its treasures for nearly two hundred years, while kangaroo and opossum were still in possession of the spot where this learned conference is now holding its meeting. I speak of the Library of Dublin University, the chief library of Ireland, and one of the five greatest libraries of the United Kingdom.

It is seldom that the librarian has reason to be grateful to the soldier. Too often the lover of literature has had to mourn the destruction of books caused by war. The most precious store of literature accumulated in ancient times, the great library of Alexandria, containing 700,000 works, the loss of which is the heaviest blow the world of letters ever sustained, owed its destruction largely to two famous soldiers, Julius Cæsar and the Khalif Omar. It contained the collected literature of Rome, Greece, India and Egypt, and it is through its destruction that many of the great writers of antiquity are nothing more to us now than names. But it was out of warfare that the great Dublin library originated. It was owing to

a Spanish defeat. To commemorate the overthrow of the Spaniards when they attempted a landing in the South of Ireland in 1602, the officers of Elizabeth's army gave £1,800, to create a University Library in Dublin. The ordering of the books was entrusted to James (afterwards Archbishop) Ussher, then a Dublin don. The Dublin Library may be called the twin-sister of the Bodleian; for, when Ussher went to London to buy books, by an interesting coincidence he met on his arrival Sir Thomas Bodley, who was bent on the same mission for the library he had just founded at Oxford. We read that they were very helpful to each other in procuring the rarest works. It would really appear that neither attempted to get any advantage over his neighbour, even when their virtue was tried by a unique example of some coveted work—a height of Christian self-abnegation, to which it is doubtful if rival book-collectors of to-day could rise.

Probably no other great library ever owed so much to soldiers. The second considerable addition to it came from Cromwell's army in Ireland. This was the private library of Archbishop Ussher, a rare collection of valuable books and manuscripts, numbering some 10,000 volumes. Never surely did a library pass through stranger adventures. First of all it narrowly escaped destruction in the siege of Drogheda. Then, when the siege was raised, Ussher conveyed his books to Chester, and later to Chelsea. They were not much safer there. The Archbishop preached against the authors of the Westminster Confession, and the House of Commons promptly confiscated his library—a really fiendish punishment to inflict on such a book-lover. Happily the pious John Selden, who had so great an admiration of Ussher's vast learning that he regarded it as miraculous, pleaded successfully for the restoration of the books to their owner. A curious incident is recorded as showing the esteem in which Ussher was generally held. When he was travelling in Wales a party of Puritan troopers broke open his trunks and took away some of his books. Two of his valuable manuscripts finally disappeared; but most of the other books were brought back to him through the clergy generally throughout England preaching in favour of their restoration. After Ussher's death the King of Denmark and Cardinal Mazarin both struggled to obtain the library; but Cromwell in his pleasant masterly way forbade its being sold without his consent. Soon after it was bought for the benefit of Dublin University by Cromwell's own officers and soldiers. The books were for a time kept in Dublin Castle by the Protector, for whom, by the way, Ussher had no great admiration, describing him as possessed "of the usual intestines, but without a heart." When the restoration came the Merry Monarch sent the collection to the University Library, where it now abides. There is a Latin inscription over the books, describing them with a shameful forgetfulness of Puritan public spirit, as "*The gift of His Serene Highness Charles II.*" There is a record of tenders having been invited for making presses and chains for the books. A wonderful contrast this with the freedom of access that the humblest visitor enjoys in the great libraries of Sydney and Melbourne. In the dead, dull period of the 18th century the library was very carelessly managed; but splendid gifts were not wanting—some of them being due to the influence of Edmund Burke, an alumnus of Dublin University. Bishop Berkeley, then a Fellow, describes the library as being in rather a sorry state. An English traveller of the same period, who wrote an account of it in what he called his "*Conversation in Ireland*," tells us that one of the most interesting objects in it was the "*skin of a notorious Tory which*

had been tanned and stuffed with straw." He may possibly have confounded the Library with the Museum.

Within the last 50 years the Library has made great and rapid progress, and now contains little short of a quarter of a million of printed books and 2,000 manuscripts.

BUILDING.

Externally the Library building is plain to severity; but in its simplicity of outline there is an impressive dignity, which would perhaps be wanting in a more florid style. The interior, however, is strikingly handsome. The principal apartment is a great gallery 210 feet long and 41 feet wide. The wood-work is richly carved oak, dark with age. The barrel-roof, also of oak, rises 40 feet above the floor. All along both sides are recesses at right angles to the main axis of the room, very much as in the Melbourne Public Library. Twenty feet above the floor a gallery with exactly similar recesses runs round the room. This is supported by Corinthian pilasters of oak. In front of each of these pilasters there stands, on a handsome carved pedestal, a marble bust of one of the "Immortals" of literature, ancient or modern. Surely the most fitting adornment that could be devised for a great library. The idea of it was manifestly derived from the famous library which the Emperor Augustus built at Rome. There, all along the walls, were ranged the busts of the most eminent Roman writers, and the excitement and emulation in the literary world which this caused is often alluded to by the Latin authors. The Romans knew how to decorate their libraries, and they had many of them. In Ancient Rome the Public Libraries were amongst the most beautiful edifices of the city. Surely the example is one to imitate. Nowhere is it more fitting that the arts of architecture, sculpture and painting should be employed than in providing a noble home for the greatest heritage that past ages have bequeathed to us. May one be pardoned for expressing astonishment that the magnificent collection of books, of which this great and wealthy city is justly proud, should be so humbly housed? What a contrast between your Public Library and your Post Office or Queen Victoria Market! Sydney provides for cabbages and tomatoes a far more glorious abode than for the immortal remains of Plato and Shakespeare.

THE TREASURES OF THE LIBRARY.

The most precious literary treasures of the library are naturally to be found in the MS room. Among these is a palimpsest, known to scholars as "Z," containing a part of St. Matthew's Gospel. It dates from the 6th century, and is of great critical value. To such a literary audience it is perhaps superfluous to explain that a palimpsest is a MS. from which some earlier writing has been erased, or partly erased, to allow fresh writing to be substituted. Generally the older writing is the more valuable, and is worth all the labour of decipherment. Some very precious documents, both Christian and classical, have been recovered from palimpsests.

The library has another MS. of the Greek Testament, which has a remarkable history. The passage in the 1st Epistle of St. John, which reads in the Authorised Version, "There are Three that bear witness in Heaven, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, and these Three are One," was omitted by Erasmus from the 1st edition of his Greek Testament because of the weak documentary authority. Erasmus was attacked for what he had done, and, under pressure, promised, that, if a single Greek MS. could be found containing the words, he would insert them. They were at last found in a 15th century MS., the *Codex Montfortianus*,

now in the Dublin Library. Erasmus kept his promise, and printed the words in his 3rd edition, from which they have passed into our Authorised Version, where no doubt nine-tenths of those who read them regard them as an inspired utterance. They were long since, as every reader of Gibbon knows, proved to be spurious, and the Revisers have very properly expunged them from the Sacred Text without comment.

But the chief glory of the library is the famous *Book of Kells*. It is a copy of the Gospels in Latin, and once belonged to the Monastery of Kells in Meath, whence its name. According to the best authorities it was written in the 8th century. It is the finest surviving specimen of book-illumination. Students of ancient writing do not need to be reminded that the Irish scribes and illuminators have never been surpassed in their own art. Mr. Ruskin, in his lecture on "The Mystery of Life and Its Arts" in his volume called "Sesame and Lilies," asserts that in the 8th century Ireland possessed a School of Arts which in all essential qualities of decorative invention was quite without rival." Some of you may remember his interesting speculations as to the cause of the startlingly sudden arrest in the development of Irish Art, as though it had been shaken into frost, just when it seemed about to advance to the highest triumphs in architecture and painting. The richness, minuteness, and variety of decoration in this illuminated MS are the constant wonder of experts. Professor Westwood, one of the highest authorities on the subject, says that he has examined the designs in this book with a magnifying glass for hours together, and has never detected a false line or an irregular interlacement. In the space of less than a square inch sometimes over 100 intricate interlacements of slender ribbon pattern can be counted. Another high authority writes, "No words can convey an adequate idea of the beauty of the MS. This does not consist, as in some oriental MSS. in a profusion of gilding. There is no gold whatever. Nor does it consist in the addition of paintings independent of the text. It is the lavish variety of artistic adornment applied to the letters of the text, which justifies Professor Westwood in calling it 'THE MOST BEAUTIFUL BOOK IN THE WORLD.' The ornamentation consists largely of ever-varying interlacements of serpents and of simple bands, with countless spirals alternately expanding and contracting in the peculiar trumpet-shaped pattern of Celtic Art. The initial of every sentence is an artistic product, some of them exquisite, and no two exactly the same." The detail is so minute that it often requires a microscope to trace it, and the elegance of the tracery is only equalled by the harmony of the colouring. Giraldus Cambrensis, the historian, writing in the 12th century, says:—"The more frequently and carefully I examine it, the more I am always amazed with new beauties. The lines are so closely wrought, so interwoven, and so adorned with colour, that it must be acknowledged to be the work rather of angelic than of human skill."

Among other valuable works in the library are some of the very early publications of the Bible Society, which include portions of the Scripture translated into North American Indian languages. Some of the tribes for which the translations were made are now as extinct as the Tasmanian aborigines, and no traces of their language remain except in these books. To philologists, therefore, they are of great interest and importance. Some years ago an American librarian visiting the Dublin library caught sight of a collection of these bibles, and at once in proper American fashion offered their "weight in gold" for them.

The last of the treasures of the library which I shall particularise is a manuscript copy—(one of the few copies in existence) of the chief work

of that extraordinary, but, until lately, very ill-appreciated genius, Roger Bacon, the inventor of the magnifying-glass and of gunpowder, whose writings, it is said, gained for him a prison in his old age, (for he was suspected of magic and sorcery), but whose name Green, the historian, justly places as "first in the great roll of modern science." The Friar's great work, which in Whewell's phrase was "at once the *Encyclopædia* and the *Novum Organum*" of his time, was first printed in the 18th century from the copy in Dublin.

It is interesting, as showing the way in which rare books have increased in value during the present century, to look at the prices which the Dublin library paid for some of its treasures. In the year of the Battle of Trafalgar a Complutensian Polyglot was bought for fifty guineas. This would now probably fetch five times that amount. A first folio of Shakespeare was obtained for £23. The Sydney first folio, I believe, is worth £800. In Ussher's time a *Mercator's Atlas* was bought by a gentleman in Dublin for £3. A copy of this nowadays would fetch a wonderful price. Curiously enough, the only copy of it that I have ever seen was in Melbourne some years ago in the possession of an old lady, who used to delight in showing it.

GROWTH OF THE LIBRARY.

The chief source of the growth of the library is the privilege which it has under the Copyright Act to a copy of every "sheet of letter-press" published in the United Kingdom. Of course this must include a portentous mass of literary rubbish. The British Museum, I understand, preserves, classifies, and catalogues the whole of what reaches it, including railway-guides, almanacs, shilling shockers, and penny dreadfuls. In the Dublin Library greater discrimination is exercised. Ordinary school-books, even University text-books of inferior grade, are excluded, and of fiction only the highest class is allowed admission. Perhaps it is desirable that at least one library in every metropolis should aim at possessing a copy of every work published in the land; but surely for any except the chief library of a country the Dublin system is the most sensible—to exclude, *rubbish*, that is to say sensational fiction, third-rate poetry, works such as "Kallos, or How to be Beautiful," or "The Romish Controversy in Words of One Syllable," or "Who Wrote Shakespeare"? together with about fifty per cent. of the popular manuals of the day—generally speaking, what is ephemeral, what in two or three years hence will not be thought of or talked of. It surely cannot be the duty of a Public Library in Australia, especially with limited funds at its disposal, to cultivate a vitiated taste by providing trashy reading for the idlers of the community. If it is really the duty of the hard-squeezed taxpayers to provide this kind of literature for this kind of people, the proper place for it is in the Lending Library, not the Reference Library, which should be reserved *primarily* for the true student. It is often noticed that a large proportion of the readers in the Melbourne Public Library come there only to amuse themselves with the inferior fiction in the bound volumes of *serials*. Perhaps it was this that provoked Mr. Andrew Lang into the caustic utterance, "Not to be read in Melbourne is a feather in a writer's cap." Perhaps he means to be more complimentary to Sydney; for, in answer to the enquiry "What is Sydney doing?" he says, "Probably reading all the books that Melbourne rejects as unworthy of her quality." It appears to me that the *first* thing at which a Public Library should aim is to provide the best and most expensive works of reference—those that are necessarily beyond the means of the poor student or the ordinary citizen:

the very best encyclopædias, dictionaries, grammars, atlases; the very best editions of the classical authors of all countries and the very best technical and scientific treatises by acknowledged authorities. Till these have been secured, the cheap and ephemeral literature ought to wait. Cheapness of price as a reason for obtaining a book, which has no high literary or scientific claims, seems to me nearly the worst argument that can be used in the case of a great Public Library.

LIBRARIAN.

In Dublin the office of Chief Librarian is always filled by one of the Fellows, who is chosen for scholarship and knowledge of books. His first assistant is expected to have more of the technical knowledge of the librarian's profession. The present Chief Librarian, Dr. Abbott, is a man who stands in the very front rank of Biblical Scholars, and has published a number of works of high merit. His predecessor, Dr. J. K. Ingram, was equally distinguished as a man of letters. The question here suggests itself: Is it essential for a librarian to be a man of learning? Perhaps it is not the first essential. Perhaps it is not so important as it is to understand library management, classifying and cataloguing. Yet surely learning is eminently desirable in a librarian—indeed all kinds of learning, and the more of every kind the better. Until quite recently the common idea seems to have been that any kind of training fitted a man to be a librarian. Not quite ten years ago the office of Public Librarian in an important town in Ireland was vacant. There were 160 applicants. Their occupations had been of the most varied description. In many cases the qualifications on which they relied were of a very extraordinary character. One had been a confectioner, another a police constable. Among them were a missionary, an auctioneer, a colour-sergeant, and a bar-man. Another candidate had travelled a great deal, and said he was accustomed to the management of men, and, as these were more difficult to manage than books, he felt sure he would succeed. Another relied upon the fact that he had spent five years in Africa. A gentleman who wrote from Yorkshire frankly admitted that he could not speak the Irish language, but that, as he had been informed that the people of the town spoke "broken English," he felt confident he could make himself understood by the visitors to the library. There is probably no calling, except perhaps that of a barrister, in which any and every kind of learning is so likely to prove useful some time or other as in the profession of a librarian. Even for cataloguing a man must be highly educated. A mere acquaintance with Bibliography and with the *technique* of librarianship will not qualify an unscholarly person to catalogue ancient literature. Further, it is possible for precious treasures to pass into a library and remain long unrecognised, if the Librarian has no eye to see their worth. Let me give an example from the Dublin Library. One of the most interesting portraits of Demosthenes which have been yet found is on a small bas-relief, which early in the 18th century was discovered in the ruins of Hadrian's Villa. It was bought by a London dealer; but disappeared from view until some twelve years ago, when it was identified by Dr. Abbott, the distinguished Dublin Librarian, who found it built into a mantelpiece in one of the rooms near the library. There it had remained for nearly 150 years. It now hangs in the Great Library. Let me give a somewhat similar instance. Henry Bradshaw, the famous Cambridge Librarian, perhaps the greatest English Librarian of modern times, excepting Panizzi, discovered some valuable, and, till then unknown, fragments of early literature in the parchment bindings of old books in

the library of Trinity College. That was the feat of a scholar. By the way, one may hint to librarians that, when old volumes come into a library, it is often worth while to inspect any writing on the vellum ends, so much used by the binders of early days.

CATALOGUE.

There is, of course, an exhaustive card-catalogue. Some years ago a printed catalogue was completed at a cost of nearly £5,000. It fills nine folio volumes. The card-catalogue is primarily an author's catalogue; but cross-references and secondary entries have been used so largely that it has many of the advantages of the Dictionary Catalogue. It is wisely intended to print a brief summary catalogue in one volume. This seems to me indispensable to a National Library. Without this, students in distant parts of the country can know nothing of the resources of the library nor of the help they might derive from a visit to it.

ADMISSION.

Dublin University Library is not a Public Library exactly in the Australian sense. Nominally only members of Oxford, Cambridge, and Dublin Universities are admitted as readers; but admission is always freely granted to persons properly introduced whether connected with a University or not.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR READERS.

The arrangements for readers are much the same as in the British Museum. The most important works of reference and other books in frequent demand are kept together in the reading-room, within easy reach. To any ordinary student this is surely far more convenient than the method prevailing in the Australian Libraries, so far as I am acquainted with them, of making the main library also a Reading-room. Persons engaged in authorship or research and requiring often to consult various works of reference, perhaps scattered all over the library, would be grateful for the introduction of the British Museum system.

Formerly readers in the Dublin Library were allowed to take books from the shelves themselves; but I understand that some years ago this privilege was withdrawn. It was alleged that the free access to the shelves had encouraged the reading of improper books, including books of magic! There can be no doubt that a regulation requiring the reader to apply to one of the staff for the books he requires would have the effect of checking the demand, more especially by young people, for objectionable literature.

From the time of Queen Elizabeth to the present day Dublin has been a centre of keen intellectual life, and, after London, there is no city in the United Kingdom, (not even Edinburgh) which has been the home of a greater number of distinguished authors in every department of literature, art and science. This is beyond question due mainly to the influence of the University of Dublin—the one English institution indeed which has really succeeded in Ireland. A great library is of course an indispensable adjunct to a great University, and it is impossible to say how far the results of which I speak are due to the University possessing this noble treasure-house of knowledge. But, whether with or without a University, the beneficent influence of such a library upon the intellectual and spiritual life of a community can scarcely be over-estimated.

SIR JOSEPH BANKS.

BY PROF. E. E. MORRIS, M.A., Melbourne University.

It may naturally be asked, How the subject of the career of Sir Joseph Banks is germane to the work of the Library Conference. The answer is to be found in the origin of this discourse. Knowing that an exhibition was contemplated in connection with the Conference, I suggested that in it a speciality might be made of books and papers affecting the discovery of the east coast and the earliest settlement of Australia. I happen to know that Sydney is rich, perhaps beyond any place in the world, in manuscripts as well as printed works on that matter. And surely it is right that so it should be. An admirable occasion is now offered to make the public acquainted with Sydney's wealth in this kind. I suggested that the opportunity should be improved by lectures on Captain Cook, Sir Joseph Banks, Governor Phillip, and others; and I further said that I was prepared to give one of such lectures. The authorities of the Conference straightway accepted my offer, but have left me standing somewhat incongruously alone.

Sometimes it is said everyone knows all about Cook and his companions. Even though this dictum is supported by the high authority of Sir Walter Besant, I venture, from personal experience, to demur. Curiously enough, Sir Walter, refusing in his *Life of Cook* to recount the Voyage of the Endeavour, gives a summary of it, and omits therefrom the most important incident. In Sir Walter's fascinating book, Mr. Banks is hardly noticed at all, and I venture to claim for him a very important share in the voyage, not far inferior to that of the captain himself. So little is known of the part that Banks played in the Endeavour voyage, and in what arose out of it, that recently when I lectured on Banks in Melbourne, more than one friend asked me what I knew about "Banking."

On that occasion two eminent divines met me in the street, and one said, "So Morris is going to lecture on Joseph Banks. Who was Banks?" Neither knew. In Sydney, even, I have heard remarks about the subject of my lecture that convince me that even in Sydney the knowledge about Banks is hardly complete.

At the entrance to Botany Bay there stands a tablet on the rocks, but placed so high as to be well nigh invisible. The inscription speaks of James Cook and Joseph Banks as "the Columbus and Mæcenæ of their time." Brave words; but are they true? Especially, is Banks rightly compared to Mæcenæ? I say unhesitatingly "Yes," though his was a patronage of Science rather than of Literature. But especially Banks was the Mæcenæ, the patron, of New South Wales. He was the helper and supporter of the early settlers, and the constant friend of the colony itself.

Joseph Banks was the son of a Lincolnshire squire, grandson of a medical man who made a fortune and sat for Great Grimsby in Parliament. The father was M.P. for Peterborough, but Sir Joseph never was a candidate for Parliamentary honours. Joseph was born in London on 13th February, 1743-4. The meaning of this date is that under the Old Style the year began in March (in which month, according to Chaucer, man was first created), and all the earlier part of the year, from January 1 to Lady Day, belonged to the earlier year. If the

method of counting (New Style) had prevailed then, it would have been said that he was born in February, 1744. At the ripe age of nine Banks was sent to Harrow, but apparently only as a preparatory school, for at 13 he went to Eton. It is recorded of the boy that he was immoderately fond of play, and that he had a dislike of the ordinary pabulum of the schools of the day, viz., Latin and Greek. This failing, as an old schoolmaster, I am bound to consider improper. One day, returning from the boats at Eton, Banks was walking up a lane when he was struck by the beauty of the wild flowers with which the sides of the lane were clothed. He argued that it would be better if, instead of Latin and Greek, he had been taught about these flowers. That he might learn botany, he promised sundry old women, "cullers of simples," the sum of sixpence for every new herb or plant which they might bring him. Thus he began to be a collector, and he kept up the habit to the end of his long life. At home for the holidays, he found in his mother's dressing-room an old torn copy of "Gerard's Herball," and from the pictures and letterpress of this he gained much information. In his eighteenth year he was inoculated for the smallpox, and when he was well, it was thought he was old enough for Oxford. Thither he went, a gentleman commoner at Christ Church. No doubt he was different from the other members of "the House," as the members of that college proudly call it. Lord Brougham, in his *Life of Banks*, says that the men often discussed classical matters amongst themselves; but when Banks entered the room found him useless in such discussions. Soon, however, they came to know that he possessed his own stores of knowledge, whence he drew what enlightened and informed them when they touched on his domain. Anxious to persevere with his Botany, and finding no one at Oxford to instruct him (the Professor of Botany not lecturing), Banks proceeded by coach to Cambridge, and thence imported Mr. Israel Lyons, for whom at Oxford he provided both emoluments and a class of students.

In a holiday of Eton days, or during a vacation of his Oxford time, a curious incident occurred. On Hounslow Heath a gentleman had been stopped by a highwayman—quite a common proceeding in those days. Pursuit of the robber followed. The postboy having ridden forward, espied someone stooping in a ditch. "I have him," he shouted, but the man in the ditch was not the highwayman, but Joseph Banks, who often told the story in later life. His explanation that he was botanising was received with incredulity, not politely expressed, and he was hauled some dozen miles, protesting, even to Bow Street Police Court, where the presiding magistrate at once understood the true state of the case, and dismissed the future President of the Royal Society with an apology for the inconvenience to which he had been subjected. The study of Botany certainly went forward under difficulties in those days.

During his freshman's year at Oxford, Banks lost his father, and came into an estate in Lincolnshire, Revesby Abbey, and a fortune of seven thousand a year. Most young men of his class in life would have enjoyed themselves; but Banks' idea of enjoyment was to work at his favourite pursuits of Botany and Natural History. In May, 1766, he, being a little over 22, was elected Fellow of the Royal Society. No doubt at that time the honour was not so great as it is now, nor as Banks himself helped to make it; and his election is to be regarded rather as an indication of his tastes than as a reward of work accomplished. A few months later he started off upon his first expedition—to Newfoundland—in a man-of-war with a friend, Lieutenant Phipps, R.N., who afterwards became the first Lord Mulgrave, and whose descendant,

the Marquis of Normanby, was in turn Governor of three of the Australasian colonies. This was Banks' maiden scientific trip, and it is much to be regretted that no account of it has ever been given to the world. Newfoundland had hitherto been known only to fishermen, and Banks' design was to study its natural history. He returned to England by way of Lisbon, ready for more important work.

Shortly after his return to London Banks formed the acquaintance of a young Swede, a favourite pupil of the famous Linnaeus, who, having gone to England to seek his fortune, had obtained a position in the library of the British Museum. For his recent work in classificatory botany, the name of Linnaeus was one to conjure with amongst the votaries of Science, and the friendship then formed made Dr. Solander, as the companion of Banks, one of the first to land in Botany Bay. Later, until his death, Solander was secretary and librarian to Banks.

It happened that Lord Sandwich lived near Banks in Lincolnshire. Lord Brougham has a story, hardly credible to me, that Banks and Lord Sandwich formed a plan suddenly in the night to divert the Serpentine, in order to gain knowledge about the habits of the fish thus suddenly deprived of their element. It seems a curious way of seeking knowledge, and my Lord Sandwich, *æt.* 45, at least, was rather old for such pranks, whilst, as he held an important place under Government, he would have been unlikely to indulge the whim. At any rate, the scheme was never carried out, and Banks soon wanted his friend's assistance for a more important design. It was known that in the year 1769 a transit of Venus would occur, such as would be of great importance to astronomical science. Observations of the transit, taken simultaneously in the northern and southern hemispheres, would help in determining the distance of the earth from the sun. The Royal Society petitioned his Majesty King George the Third, who had not long come to the throne, that a King's ship might be sent out to the South Seas to bear an astronomical observer. His Majesty's bark *Endeavour*, Lieutenant James Cook, R.N., in command, was to be sent to the South Seas, and especially to the island of Otaheite, to carry Mr. Green, an astronomer, for the purpose of the observation. Captain Cook himself knew enough of the science of astronomy to be able to help in the observations. The moment Banks heard of this expedition, he at once went to Lord Sandwich—the nobleman who to-day has monuments twain in the memories of man. Fond of gambling, he could not tear himself away from the gaming tables, even for his meals, wherefore there was brought unto him at table a slice of meat between two slices of bread. Later, as patron of Captain Cook, he was remembered in the naming of those fatal islands where the great circumnavigator met his death. The humble but useful sandwich, and the islands lately annexed by the United States, are the most permanent memorials of "Jemmy Twitcher," Lord Sandwich, described in his own day by the statesman afterwards Lord Sydney, as "the most profligate sad dog in the kingdom."

Then to Lord Sandwich came young Mr. Banks, with some such request as this: "If ever you helped me, help me now. Get me permission to go in the *Endeavour*. I long to go; to assist, I will take with me a man of science, my friend Dr. Solander. I will take artists, two or three, to depict what we shall see; and all the scientific preparations shall be at my own charges. It shall cost the Administration nothing." The Admiralty, it need hardly be said, accepted the offer. It is the sort of proposal which it has been most unwise not to accept.

Mr. Banks is the first of a glorious series of scientific explorers belonging to our race. But he stands almost without parallel in the matter of doing everything at his own expense. A contemporary letter gives the preparatory expenditure at £10,000, and it is said that to meet it Banks mortgaged his estate at Revesby. The practice is always to speak of Banks and Solander as a pair of friends engaged in the scientific work on the Endeavour; and beyond doubt Banks preferred that they should thus be coupled. But history must speak the truth, and recognise that they were master and man. It has been stated, and again denied, that Banks gave Dr. Solander a salary of £400 a year throughout his life with him—that is, from the preparations for the Endeavour voyage until Solander's death. I have seen that actual sum, in Banks' own handwriting, in a list of expenses for the second voyage, that, as far as Banks was concerned, was afterwards declared "off." The document is now in Sydney.

To tell the history of the famous voyage—the most famous in our maritime history, and standing next after the voyage of Columbus in the maritime history of the world—would take longer time than you would be willing to listen. If it is not known to all Australians, I venture to think it ought to be. For them it is more important than many of the facts in English history carefully taught in schools,—say the Wars of the Roses, or the marriages of the Eighth Henry.

The voyage may be divided into five parts, of which the first and last chapters fall in parts of the world known before. The first would contain the visit to Madeira and the friendly reception at Rio Janeiro, where the unwarlike appearance of the ship, and her strange invoice, made the viceroy suspect some trade ruse. He was ignorant of astronomy, and his only idea of the transit of Venus was that it was the North star passing through the South Pole! Then followed the expedition ashore in Tierra Del Fuego, when the weather was so treacherous and gave them a sudden fall in the thermometer and a snow-storm on a summer day, and thus proved nearly fatal to Dr. Solander, and quite, to two poor negro servants. The second chapter lies in the Islands, and especially in Otaheite, where the transit was observed in a cloudless sky, and the islanders were found fascinating almost to the point of producing a general mutiny, and individual desertions were frequent. Other islands also were visited. Chapter three would be "New Zealand." Tasman had been there, and named it; but he had seen very little, and after the attack on his boat in Massacre Bay had not even landed. Cook made a most admirable chart of New Zealand, which he circumnavigated with patience. The tallest mountain in the Southern Alps is rightly called after his name, though the poetical "Aorangi," cloud-piercer, was sacrificed for it. His exploration is the real origin of the colony of New Zealand. Though its coming was long delayed, it came of the Endeavour voyage. From Cape Farewell Cook turned his prow towards New Holland.

On April 19, 1770, Lieutenant Hicks first saw the (expected) land. Cook gave the name Point Hicks, but later carelessness has dropped the name from the map. It is called now Cape Everard. Cook determined to turn northwards, and follow the coast of New Holland.

Botany Bay requires an hour's lecture to itself, and the naming of "Port Jackson" is an old story now. Point Byron is not called after the poet, but after his grandfather, one of Cook's predecessors in exploring the Pacific, known by his sailors as "Foul Weather Jack."

Even now we know how dangerous is the coast of Queensland, and that coral reef which runs parallel with it. One night there came a bump, and his Majesty's bark had a close shave of absolute and immediate destruction. There was long and hard work at the pumps, and when the ship was got off she was "fothered," and so brought safe to land. At the mouth of the Endeavour River, where now stands Cooktown, the Endeavour was beached, and it was found that the piece of coral that had pierced was plugging the hole. Here was seen the kangaroo, and its name obtained. With utmost care was the vessel taken through the coral reef, and steered through Torres Straits.

The last chapter should treat of "Fatal Batavia," where almost everyone on board caught the fever. Banks and Solander nearly died. Money may be said to have saved them, for Banks took a country house, and they recovered through change of air. Poor Tupia died. After leaving Batavia many on board died of dysentery. Round the Cape the vessel crawled, and so home. On June 12, 1771, she anchored at Deal, having been absent two years and ten months.

Many stories are told of the Endeavour voyage; but what concerns us most is the thought, What sort of a man was Joseph Banks? Let it be understood that he was not Sir Joseph until long after. The title raises up a false picture in the mind. He was a young man of 24, having left Oxford without a degree, full of pluck, with a thirst for knowledge and a burning desire for adventure. In a famous prize poem, Wentworth rightly describes him as one

Who, wealth despising, and inglorious ease,
The rocks and quicksands braved of unknown seas.

In his character all may read generosity, boundless energy, and dauntless courage; but I also read a quality, to describe which I must resort to slang. He was "larky." When the bark arrived at Tahiti, and the natives swarmed aboard, it was Banks who found them nicknames. "One I shall for the future call Lycurgus, from the justice he executed upon his offending subjects. The other, from the large size of his body, I shall call Hercules." "One, from his grim countenance, we have called Ajax, and at one time thought to be a great king. A friend of his, who ate most monstrously, and was therefore called Epicurus. . ."

Next, to show the light heart with which this man of means faced hardships, take his account of the weevils in the bread-stuff.

"Our bread, indeed, is but indifferent, occasioned by the quantity of vermin that are in it. I have often seen hundreds, nay thousands, shaken out of a single biscuit. We in the cabin have, however, an easy remedy for this, by baking it in an oven, not too hot, which makes them all walk off. But this cannot be allowed to the ship's people, who must find the taste of these animals very disagreeable, as they everyone taste as strong as mustard, or rather, as spirits of hartshorn. They are of five kinds,"—note the point of view of the man of science—"three *Tenebrio*, one *Ptinus*, and the *Phalangium canchroides*." But perhaps the best instance of the liveliness of the man is seen in the famous Tahitian funeral in which he took a part. He wanted to attend a native funeral, but was told that spectators were not permitted, so he consented to take part. It was necessary for him to strip; he stripped. It was necessary that he should be painted black; he was painted black; and he mentions the extreme difficulty with which the paint came off again. "We scrubbed one another until it was dark, before the blacking came off." But he enjoyed that funeral. "We ran towards the people, and they fled like sheep before a wolf."

Of Mr. Banks' generosity, here is an instance. Tupia, priest and ex-Prime Minister of Tahiti, wanted to sail with the *Endeavour*, and Cook quite recognised the advantage of taking him. He had "extensive and peculiar" knowledge of the islands, and he acted as interpreter, being understood not only by the islanders, but by the Maoris, who spoke a language akin to his own. When, however, it was proposed to take Tupia on board, Cook hesitated because he could not see how the poor fellow would be maintained in England. Banks came to the rescue, and makes a remark in his journal that throws a curious side light on the ways of the country gentlemen of his time.

"The Government will never in all human probability take any notice of him. I, therefore, have resolved to take him. Thank heaven, I have a sufficiency, and I do not know why I may not keep him as a curiosity as well as my neighbours do lions and tigers at a larger expense than he will ever probably put me to."

Banks was public-spirited. He had shown his public spirit in making the voyage at his own expense, and further evidence for this belongs to the later part of his career. He is always in the first boat to go ashore; always ready to march across an island to make natives restore something stolen. A thorough man of the world, he talks of drunkenness in the tone of a modern. He is shocked at the Christmas jollities. This is one entry: "Christmas Day; all good Christians—that is to say, all good hands—got abominably drunk; so that all through the night there was scarce a sober man in the ship. Weather, thank God, very moderate, or the Lord knows what would have become of us." Next year, "in the evening all hands were as drunk as our forefathers used to be upon like occasions." The third Christmas was the day fixed for the sailing from fatal Batavia. Banks makes no comment on the jollifications, if there were any, and indeed they had reason to rejoice. Nor is it in Banks' journal that it is recorded that the only one on board passing unscathed by the Batavian fever was a certain "jolly old sail-maker" who escaped infection by the simple expedient of getting drunk every night.

It is quite evident that Banks and Solander, "the philosophers," as they are frequently called, were treated with great respect on board, and that they earned the affection of the officers.

On the *Endeavour's* return to England, the greatest excitement was raised by the news of the voyage. Both Sir Joshua Reynolds and Benjamin West painted portraits of Banks. [Engravings of both were shown]. In Boswell's *Johnson* there is a letter by the great doctor, thanking Banks for the pleasure received from the conversation of himself and Dr. Solander at the dinner at the house of Sir Joshua. Dr. Johnson enclosed a motto for a goat that had been twice round the world: "Ease and perpetual pasture" was to be her reward. A more striking scene is described in a note to one edition of Boswell's "Tour to the Hebrides." One Sabbath evening, at Inverness, Dr. Johnson was entertaining company at his inn, and conversation turned on the kangaroo. The great Cham rose from the table, and, gathering up the tails of his great brown coat so as to represent a pouch, gave three vigorous bounds across the room. For the picture, it should be remembered that Johnson was then 64 years of age. Goldsmith introduced the same animal into his "Animated Nature," alas, posthumously published, but in a prologue that he contributed to a play, made earlier reference to the returned adventurers. An account is also preserved of another

meeting at which Benjamin Franklin was present, when the conversation turned on the fact that New Zealand was destitute of "corn, fowls, and all quadrupeds except dogs." Franklin said he "could, with all his heart, subscribe to a voyage intended to communicate *in general* those benefits which we enjoy to countries destitute of them in the remote parts of the globe." Hereupon Mr. Dalrymple drew up the prospectus of a voyage, in which "he was to command a Catt that was to carry forth the fowls, etc., that the Maoris might have fresh eggs." But it is evident that sufficient subscriptions did not come in. In a museum in Scotland, is a chair made by Chippendale out of wood brought from Australia and presented by Banks to the great surgeon, Dr. Hunter.

The utmost interest was taken in the book to be published about the voyage. The ideas of the day seemed to require that the story should be told a professional literary man, and Dr. Hawkesworth, a sort of minor Dr. Johnson, was appointed. He did his work very leisurely, but steps were taken to prevent earlier news leaking out. Two books, however, managed to get published, of which the story is interesting, but rather long. When "Hawkesworth's Voyages" appeared, the doctor is said to have netted between five or six thousand pounds; but he did not long live to enjoy his profits. Attacks came fast and thick. A very witty satire "Oberea's Lament" delighted Porson. One charge that a moralist like himself should not have published accounts of the free and easy manners of the South Sea Islanders is said to have hastened the poor man's death. Hawkesworth's book is made up of a triple strand; Cook's account, Banks' journal, and his own pompous additions. Until a few years ago every account of the voyage was drawn from Hawkesworth, with, perhaps, slight borrowings from the two accounts that had earlier appeared. Within the last seven years, however, the originals have been printed, Cook's log, edited by Admiral Wharton, and Banks' Journal, by that veteran man of science, Sir Joseph Hooker. The manuscripts of both books are now in Sydney. Most interesting matter has also been printed in the "Historical Records of New South Wales.

Much will have more. So pleased was the English world with the results of the Endeavour's voyage, that a cry arose for another. Much had been discovered, but the geographical problem of the Southern Seas was as to "Terra Australis Incognita." For fully two centuries the learned world had held the belief that stretching northward from the Pole lay a great southern continent, as large as Europe and Asia combined, or larger. Tierra del Fuego was the only known part of it, but ignorance as to details had only made geographers more positive that it existed, for this great and convincing argument was quoted, that if it were not there the world would topple over. Of recent years, Dalrymple stood out the strongest advocate of this southern continent, and he was inclined to upbraid Cook for not having found it. On this subject many had been the talks on board the Bark; but the continent had not been found. The aim and object of Cook's second voyage was to discover the truth about it. Cook proved the non-existence of the continent by the simple process of sailing over the part where theorists had placed it. Banks greatly desired to accompany Cook on this voyage also, but after great preparations he did not go. Mystery has often been made as to the reason. But the story is clear. Banks wanted a larger ship, whilst Cook was perfectly contented with another Whitby collier of the same build as the Endeavour, strong in the bottom and unlikely to be hurt if it "took the ground." The Admiralty officials naturally sided with the sailor against the landsman. Banks was ~~mean~~ and used unwise language about a

"jobb," giving the word a second "b" apparently for emphasis. The higher officials ordered sundry alterations to be made in the Resolution. It was said that the controller, Captain (afterwards Sir Hugh) Palliser, an old friend and commanding officer of Cook's, to pay Banks out for his wrath, exaggerated what had to be done in a way that endangered the safety of the ship. A lively letter is extant from one of the officers, printed in the "Historical Records of New South Wales":—

"She is so very bad that the pilot declares that he will not run the risk of his character so far as to take charge of her farther than the Nore without a fair wind; that he cannot with safety to himself, attempt working her to the Downs. Hope you know me too well to impute my giving this intelligence to any ridiculous apprehensions for myself. By God, I'll go to sea in a grog-tub, if required, or in the Resolution, as soon as you please; but must say I think her by far the most unsafe ship I ever saw or heard of. However, if you think proper to embark to the South Pole in a ship which a pilot (who I think by no means a timorous man) will not undertake to carry down the river, all I can say is that you shall be most cheerfully attended, so long as we can keep her above water."

Well done, Lieutenant Clerke! Even Mr. Banks saw that the ship must be cut down, but he saw also that Palliser had the best of him, and it is quite evident that in after life he remembered. Lord Brougham, one of his earliest biographers, who knew Sir Joseph, says that Palliser

Hated learning worse than toad or asp.

From the Cape Cook wrote to Banks, and began his letter thus: "Some cross circumstances which happened at the latter part of the equipment of the Resolution, created, I have reason to think, a coolness betwixt you and I, but I can by no means think it was sufficient to me to break off all correspondence with a man I am under many obligations too." The grammar and the spelling may be dubious, but that opening of the letter seems to me to reflect credit on both the writer and the recipient.

Disappointed of his second trip to the South Seas, Mr. Banks went to Iceland instead, and on his return settled down to the pursuits of a country gentleman varied by the work in London of a man of means devoted to science. A desire arose in the Royal Society for reform, and young as he was (34) Mr. Banks was elected to the position of president, and held office for the unparalleled time of 42 years. His early reforms, which consisted chiefly of two, making the secretaries do their work, and scrutinising the scientific claims of candidates for election, produced some little friction, and then a small secession. The Society gained enormously by the devoted work that Banks did as president. His house in Soho Square became the centre of scientific work, the place where men of light and leading met. May a few dates here be given? President in 1778, he married in 1779, was made a baronet in 1781, K.C.B. in 1795, and a Privy Councillor in 1797. In 1802 he was chosen associate member of the Institute of France, and in his letter of thanks he used language of strong admiration:—"To be the first elected to be an associate of the first literary society in the world, surpasses my most ambitious hopes." This language gave dire offence to some British patriots, and Banks nearly lost through it the friendship of his sovereign. For many years George the Third had been very fond of Banks. "Let us talk of something more important; let us talk about sheep," was the King's favourite turn of the conversation, and Sir Joseph used to preside over the sales of the royal sheep at Windsor, not as auctioneer, but sitting by the auctioneer's side. On such occasions he secured sundry merinoes for New South Wales.

In what way was Banks the Mæcenas of science? His purse was always open for any man of science in distress, or anyone unable to carry out a project that commended itself to Banks. During the long war with France, Banks, who was essentially a man of peace, interfered at least a dozen times to prevent the confiscation of French scientific collections. He helped Flinders on his famous exploring expedition, and did his utmost to try and get the unfortunate man out of prison in the Isle of Bourbon. It was through him that Bligh was sent on his bread-fruit errand in the *Bounty*, and when, after the mutiny, Bligh made that remarkable boat journey, perhaps the most noteworthy ever known, he wrote to the Admiralty a shorter account than that which he sent to Banks. But that for which Banks best deserves to be remembered in Australia is that he was the first suggester of the foundation of the colony of New South Wales. It is usually said that Matra's pamphlet is the first suggestion, but in that very document Matra acknowledges Banks' support. Banks had made the suggestion earlier in evidence before Parliament. Matra had been a midshipman on the *Endeavour*, and the suggested colony was due to quarter-deck walks in which Banks shared.

The colony once founded, Banks did not cease his efforts on its behalf. It is no exaggeration to say that for thirty years he was the unpaid "Agent-General" for New South Wales. Holding a prominent position in England he was consulted on every point,—who should go out as governor, who should go out as gardener. Clay is sent back to Banks from Sydney Cove by the men of the first fleet. He forwarded it to his friend Josiah Wedgewood who designed the medallion that drew forth the often-quoted lines of the author of "The Botanic Garden." At first Banks is doubtful about the suitability of New South Wales for growing wool, but later he is convinced and is ever afterwards the firm friend of that industry. At his own expense Banks sent out an artist who saw in Australia nothing worthy of his brush, and returned home! One wonders what Banks thought of him. At his own expense Banks sent out botanists and ornithologists. The student of Australian Botany frequently meets the initials "R. Br." They are those of Robert Brown, whom Sir Joseph employed. Caley collected birds for him. Dryander succeeded Solander as his librarian.

The *Banksia* is named after Sir Joseph, and a few unimportant places here and there; but there is no worthy memorial of him, not even an adequate life, none beyond a few pages, and no monument.

Here, in Sydney, you have in Hyde Park put up Woolner's beautiful statue in memory of Cook, and surely you have done right. As the inscription on the Cook medal says, he was ocean's keenest investigator, and every Englishman's heart beats higher at his name and at the thought of all he did. You have recently erected a noble statue in memory of Arthur Phillip, the first Governor of New South Wales, and again you have done right, for Phillip executed a hard task in an admirable and humane manner. But why have you put up no statue to commemorate the great man who first suggested the colonisation of these shores, who through so many years watched the varying fortunes of this infant colony, who believed in its future when hardly another did, who more than any other man deserves the proud title of "Father of Australia?"

STATE SUBSIDIES AND PRIVATE BENEFACTIONS TO LIBRARIES.

NOTES OF AN ADDRESS BY H. C. L. ANDERSON, M.A., PRINCIPAL LIBRARIAN,
PUBLIC LIBRARY OF NEW SOUTH WALES.

It may be assumed that a country worthy of national existence must have a National Library, whose primary object will be to act as a store-house for the nation's literature in its widest and most general sense. Incidentally it must also gather together, more or less, the best of the literatures of other nations. It has been found in practice in the greatest national libraries of the world, such as those of Great Britain, France, and the United States, that it is impossible to discriminate between what is to be kept and what is to be rejected of the nation's own literature. Everything must be preserved, if only as a record of some epoch or phase of our past history, and because nowhere else will such a record be kept. Assuming then the necessary existence of a National Library, it demands consistently generous support from the State. Such support has been given in the past in this colony, and on the whole we may assert, as far as statistics can guide us, that, taking into account our population and our age, the support given to public libraries in Australia is very nearly as generous, if perhaps not so judicious, as that which has been given in the older countries of the world.

I regret to say that the statistics available for the whole of the Australian colonies are very incomplete, and being compiled on different systems, are not strictly comparable; but without attaching too much importance to mere figures, it is safe to say that Victoria has spent much more money on free public libraries than New South Wales. The number of these institutions in the former colony is 346, and the number of volumes in them 597,280; the buildings have cost £405,000, of which £89,590 has been provided by the State. The total subsidies paid by the Government up to date for expenses other than buildings amount to £199,550, and that for last year was £3,500. These figures do not include the Public Library of Victoria, except as far as the total of volumes is concerned. This National Library has received from the Government £185,000 for buildings, which, however, include provision for the Museums and Art Gallery, and £300,000 for other subsidies. Its volumes included in the above totals, number 160,342, and its vote for this year is £7417. In our own colony, the country libraries have received during the past 20 years £100,000 subsidy, divided amongst 269 institutions; and 56 municipal libraries receiving one initial grant each, have got from the State £10,000. The number of volumes owned by those libraries is approximately 510,000, of which less than half are fiction. The Government have given £70,000 to assist in erecting suitable buildings, and have voted for this year £6,000 for maintenance, and £2,000 as a subsidy to help in the erection of buildings.

This Library, the National Library of the colony, has received since it was taken over by the Government in 1869, the sum of £63,536 for books and binding, together with the sum of £1,500 for the purchase of 16,000 volumes bought with the old subscription library. The Parliamentary appropriation for the present year is £7,545, which covers the cost of salaries, books for reference library, lending branch, and country boxes, copyright administration, editing of the Historical Records of New South Wales, and all incidental expenses. It has also received

donations of books to the value of £4,128, and accessions under our Copyright Act to the value of £470, making the total cost of this library £69,634. Of this amount £8,529 is represented in the lending branch, and £4,700 in country boxes. For this sum we have to show 124,401 volumes, and as some of these are individually worth from £100 to £1000 each, I think we may safely assert that the market value of our stock at the present time is worth what it has cost the country; for while many of the cheaper books have depreciated in value till they are worth practically nothing, many of the more valuable ones, especially rare Australian books, have enormously appreciated.

In private benefactions, however, Australia has not as yet peculiarly distinguished itself. In New South Wales our Sydney University has received a splendid bequest of £35,000 from the late Thomas Fisher, for library purposes, besides several donations of books of special value. Our own library was enriched in its early history by the bequest of the collection of the late Justice Wise, which should have been kept by itself as a special division of this Institution to be known in the future by the name of the donor. We have also received a splendid gift from Sir Richard Tangye in the First Folio Shakespeare, which, with its beautiful oak casket, is to-day probably worth £1,000.

I have no hesitation in prophesying that the Association will do much to cultivate the library spirit, which will prompt many of our cultured citizens to give themselves the pleasure during their lives of getting together special collections of books on different phases of human thought, and to ensure that these shall give delight and instruction to the general public when they themselves will be no longer able to enjoy them.

In Great Britain during the last nine years donations to the value of £1,200,000 have been presented to public libraries, chief amongst which I would place the exquisitely beautiful and perfectly planned library erected by Mrs. Ryland in Manchester in memory of her late husband at a cost of £200,000, and now equipped with the famous Althorp collection of books secured by Mrs. Ryland for £200,000, the whole being presented as a free gift to the City of Manchester. In the United States, the private endowments to public libraries during the last 35 years have amounted to £6,000,000 sterling, of which Mr. Andrew Carnegie, following out his ideas as set forth in the "Gospel of Wealth" published in the "North American Review," has given £800,000, notably £229,000 to the Pittsburg Public Library with its four branches, and £80,000 for the formation of eight libraries in Scotland, his native land, of which sum £50,000 was given for the building of a beautiful library in Edinburgh. This has all been done in grateful memory of the pleasure he received as a little boy from a small library belonging to a country gentleman named Colonel Anderson, to which he was allowed weekly access.

It is meet that I should record, *honoris causa*, a few of the more notable benefactors to public libraries in the United States, in the hopes that some of our wealthy Australians may perchance be moved to go and do likewise.

The Newberry Library of Chicago was the gift of Walter N. Newberry at a cost of £416,000; in the same city is the Crerar Library, the gift of John Crerar, worth £624,000. George Peabody gave Baltimore the Peabody Institute valued at £291,000; and this city also boasts of the Enoch Pratt Library which cost £254,000. Massachusetts can boast of many bequests ranging from £10,000 upwards, but the most memorable are the Charles Forbes Library of Northampton worth

£45,000, and the Public library of Haverhill presented by E. J. M. Hale at a cost of £36,000. In Michigan the town of Muskegon boasts of a library worth £31,000 presented by Charles Hackley. The Minneapolis Public Library has received £41,000 from Dr. Kirby Spencer, and the Public Library of St. Paul costing £104,000 was the gift of Henry Hall. The Public Library of New York which has lately built a new home at a cost of £500,000, has been enriched by £416,000 from the Astor Family, £165,000 from James Lenox, £104,000 from Mortimer F. Reynolds, besides other handsome foundations. Cleveland, in Ohio, possesses a library worth £62,000 presented by Leonard Case.

Pennsylvania is rich in libraries which have been founded by citizens—the Public Library of Allegheny presented by Andrew Carnegie at a cost of £57,000; the Philadelphia Library Co. which is indebted to Dr. James Rush for £312,000; the Osterhout Library in Wilkes-Barre a gift of £41,000; and the Pittsburg Public Library founded by Andrew Carnegie, as before mentioned.

I trust that the Government of New South Wales will soon see their way to providing a building suitable for the purposes of a National Library, and fitting the dignity and prospects of the mother colony, in which we shall have provision for properly accommodating the treasures and special collections which benefactors in future years may desire to bequeath to the State.

The Librarian of the Boston Public Library, which was built at a cost of £500,000, and possesses a collection of books valued at the same amount, has announced that during the five years since this noble building was erected the bequests have amounted to one-fifth of its capital value, and it now boasts of eight special collections ranging from 600 to 14,000 volumes, which are second in value only to similar collections in the British Museum.

The only extra assistance that I would crave from our Government in the form of an annual subsidy would be in favour of the remote country villages and hamlets of this colony. The Government might well devote £500, out of the handsome appropriation on behalf of public education, to subsidising a scheme by which all classes of pure and elevating literature judiciously chosen might be distributed to the most remote parts of this colony, absolutely without any restriction, merely as an educational agency, to cheer the lives of some of our toilers whose lot is peculiarly cheerless, and to supply the stimulus to the boys and girls of our settlers' homes which may lead them to emulate the noble lives of the great men and women of past ages.

Perhaps some wealthy man or woman in this colony will do for the settlers and their children in the remote hamlets of New South Wales, what the Hon. J. H. Stont and Mr. J. D. Witter have done for the same class of people in Wisconsin, U.S.A. They personally equipped 60 travelling libraries containing 30 to 40 volumes each, 10 books in each being for the children, and they distribute these to the isolated workers in the country districts. There has been no difficulty in getting suitable persons—teachers, storekeepers, farmers, postmasters, and others—to act as Librarians, each of whom has found the truth of the Spanish Proverb, "He who sells oil anoints his own hands."

It would not be easy to find a surer method of getting and giving true pleasure, than by initiating and superintending such a scheme during one's life, and taking steps to perpetuate its blessings for future generations. Who can estimate the sum of individual pleasure and general

benefit that might spring from such a scheme wisely planned and generously perfected?

[NOTE.—Within a week of the delivery of this address Mr. Anderson had the gratification of receiving an intimation from Mr. David Scott Mitchell, M.A., that he proposed to bequeath his collection of Australiana, comprising 30,000 volumes, MSS., engravings, pictures, and autographs, to the Public Library of New South Wales, on certain conditions. The Government has since intimated through the Minister for Public Instruction (Hon. J. A. Hogue, M.P.) their acceptance of the noble gift under the conditions stated, which involve the erection of a suitable building for a National Library, and provision in a wing of it for the separate accommodation of the Mitchell Collection, where it will be made available under very simple regulations for all students of Australian History, Science and Art. Mr. Mitchell is daily enriching his collection with treasures which he is gathering from London and all parts of Australasia; and has signified his intention of handing over half his collection as soon as the new library shall have been commenced.]

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STATE SCHOOL LIBRARIES.

BY JOHN W. KEVIN, INSPECTOR OF SCHOOLS, RAYMOND TERRACE, N.S.W.

In dealing with this subject to-day, I beg it may be distinctly understood that my remarks apply almost exclusively to the Public Schools of New South Wales, and my action in connection therewith; or, perhaps I might say more correctly, with certain districts in the colony. I do not propose to treat the matter wholly in the abstract.

The subject of School Libraries is one that perhaps at first sight might appear of little moment. But surely anything that bears closely and forcibly on the moral and intellectual welfare of the younger generation cannot be taken in this light. We speak of education in our primary schools, but we must not regard the moiety of instruction given there—excellent as it is of its kind, and imparted with skill and sympathy—as such. There is a need for something beyond this—for a something that will lift the hungry mind of the thoughtful boy or girl into a stronger life and a more earnest existence. We teach very carefully and very systematically the boys and girls in our public schools to read. We give them, as it were, the key that opens the great treasure-house of knowledge—and then? Are we to leave them here, and not show them how that treasury is to be opened, and what is within? Young people fortified with this power *will* read; and if we do not give them good and wholesome literature, just as we give them good and wholesome example of conduct in life, then, assuredly, they will seek the bad, the evil, debasing, and soul-destroying penny dreadfuls and such like, which are to be had easily and cheaply, the same as anything else evil and low. But are we to encourage this? I hope not. But if we do not provide a wholesome substitute, we are doing so, unconsciously perhaps, but encouraging it nevertheless. We have at least one consoling

thought in this business, however, and that is that juvenile literature of a noble, pure-minded, educative and elevating character can be had as readily and almost as cheaply as the odious and pernicious stuff that is issued by the tens of thousands weekly from some so-called publishing-houses in London, New York, and other large cities. Never before in the world's history have so many bright and sympathetic brains been at work for the intellectual good of the young, and never before have so many delicate, deft and accomplished hands been at work to illustrate their works. There is, therefore, no excuse for us not to give our young people ample opportunities of knowing and appreciating all this wealth.

I.—THE OPENING OF THE CAMPAIGN.

School Libraries had been in existence, I believe, in some of our more important public schools a few years ago, but their existence was ephemeral, and whatever was to be found in this direction was found in the towns. No one ever seems to have thought of the bush—the backwoods—and just where they are needed most, before I took the matter up. I do not say this in any spirit of self-laudation, for I feel that sooner or later *some* one must have realised the want, and acted accordingly; and, if I moved, force of circumstances made me do so, and this is why: After many years in the bush, in my official capacity, it struck me how dreadful, how appalling, how cheerless, and how sunless was the mind-life of bush children—their homes so semi-barbarian, their daily existence so cruel, their minds so blank, their lives so animal and so full of temptation to wrong. We may talk as we choose, and no doubt mean well, of sending the light of the Gospel to the heathen, and to those “who sit in darkness,” but in God's name let us begin at home—begin with our own heathens, the heathens at our very doors, for they are many and troublous. We have already a very vigorous crop grown up; don't let us try to increase it.

About five or six years ago I took up the Library movement in the country, and I did so on three broad grounds, and these I have kept steadily in view and worked upon ever since:

- I. For the benefit of the bush children.*
- II. For the benefit of those of the towns and villages.*
- III. For the benefit of ALL—for the better life and nobler existence of the next generation.*

As to the first point, any one who has an intimate knowledge of, and acquaintance with, what we commonly call the bush, must know how wretched, intellectually, is the home of the average settler—no books, nothing of a refining or elevating character, not even a newspaper, meets the eye. I have seen these homes by the score, because I have made it my business to do so; and surely an effort that would relieve or dissipate this gloom ought to be encouraged. And the School Libraries have done, and are doing, this in hundreds of cases.

The second point—the benefit of the children in our towns and villages. It is a sad sight to see the numbers of juveniles that swarm about the streets of the country towns at night. They have neither play nor pantomime to which they might occasionally go like city children; but if there is a lighted corner anywhere, there they are by the dozen, the girls romping and screaming, and the boys lounging round public-house doors, often smoking bad tobacco and listening to the horrible language of their seniors from within, and not infrequently

improving upon it. What are we to expect from such beginnings as these? However, where this kind of thing obtained some time ago, I find it materially altered now for the better by the presence at home of an "Alice in Wonderland," a "Robinson Crusoe," or a "Treasure Island." So much for the libraries there.

Now, as to the third point—the moral and intellectual good of all. The young people, and the younger men and women of the present age are, in a sense, idolators, and their idol is the fetich *sport*. Come what may, they must have *this*. We turn up our morning paper and read of the atrocious and senseless assassination of some luckless crowned head, or prominent individual in political or social life, the downfall of a great statesman, or the death of another. These are as nothing to the average young Australian. What cares he for such small things? They don't concern him. No! He wants to know only how So-and-so is doing on the English turf, how Sweep pulled on the Thames, or Fish swam at Dover—for they are Australians, and it is all sport. On the other hand, let some promising young countryman of his—a man possessed of a mind that in the inscrutable ways of Providence may yet shake the world of thought—achieve the greatest honors in learning at any of the Home universities, or even out here, and what is *he* thought of? Nothing. *He* doesn't count, for he is no part of the temple of Sport and her handmaid, Gambling.

There is, to my thinking, a fearful problem before the young Australian—the progress, dignity, and independence of his patrimony—and he can only preserve these by the power of intellect. But how and where is he to acquire that power? There is no one living who believes more wholly and unreservedly in the old Latin adage, "*mens sana in corpore sano*," than I do. It is essential under all conditions, and I recognise physical exercise as its very life. But we can carry the business too far, and I fear we are doing so at the present time. We must not forget that we are rapidly growing into the manhood of a Nation, and God only knows our destiny. But if we wish to be anything, aspire to anything, to make our mark in the great national contest that is now going and must go on, we must surely look up to the intellectual for our salvation. No nation, as far as I know, has ever yet made its mark in the world's history and progress on the athletic alone.

But how is the young Australian to acquire this power of intellect? Not on the racecourse or football field, or in the billiard-room, or such-like places. A writer has said that a reading people becomes a thinking people, and a thinking people, a great people. If this be true, and history proves it, I think, the Australian to be free and great must begin by reading and thinking, and he can do this best by making the School Library his starting point.

It is a very sad and a very reproachful spectacle to see the number of Schools of Art all over the colony in a moribund condition, or dead altogether. The cause of this is not difficult to find out. The young men and women of the present time, as a body, do not read, and consequently, do not think. They pooh-pooh anything intellectual, be it ever so attractively put before them; and if an entertainment of this kind is announced—say in any of our country towns—the attendance would not pay for the lighting of the hall. But give them a social, a nigger performance, some comic piece of idiocy,—something that an aboriginal or a Zulu might laugh at—and your hall is filled to the doors. I foresee, however (or rather I hope I do), a resurrection for our Schools of Arts in these libraries. For when the present school generation shall

have grown up to manhood and womanhood, then the new and better life of the Schools of Arts shall begin. Then, indeed, may we hope to say of the young Australian, in the words of Kendall, as so happily applied to one of our most gifted sons :—

“The clear bright atmosphere through which *he* looks
Is one by no dim close horizon bound,
The power shed as flame from noble books
Hath made for him a larger world around.”

II. THE PROGRESS OF THE MOVEMENT.

It is now, as I have said, about six years since I moved in the matter of School Libraries, and that was in the Lithgow district, where at that time I had over one hundred schools under my supervision, and there was nothing in the shape of a library in any of them. It was not long, however, before we could count these institutions by the dozen, and at the end of three years we had ninety-four, with something like nine thousand books. Our troubles and difficulties were many, for ready cash is not too plentiful out in the wilds of the Abercrombie or by the Fish River. But people who were content to accept fowls and turkeys, and even sucking-pigs, to raffle in order to get cash wherewith to buy books, ought to succeed—and we did. Subsequently, on my removal to Dungog (my present district), I took up the movement again, with the gratifying result that in a little over two years, we had one hundred libraries, with ten thousand books, if not more; for I do not consider a school fully equipped till it can boast of its century of tomes. I do not know for certain how many libraries—following on these examples—have been opened in other districts, but I think I am under the mark when I say one hundred; and, allowing one hundred books to each library (and that is rather a low estimate), we have another ten thousand. That is, in less than six years, three hundred libraries, with thirty thousand volumes—all of the best, the brightest, most wholesome and most instructing and entertaining that modern literature can supply. Even the very young children who can hardly read at all are not forgotten, for they are provided with charming picture books with monosyllabic letterpress (the dream of the child of twenty or more years ago), and from which the genius of a Harrison Weir, a Landseer, a Shepherd, a John Tenniel or Cooper speaks to their infant minds and teaches them many a silent lesson of truth and beauty, pity and love. To purchase these books the sum of one thousand five hundred pounds at least must have been raised, and all this without Government assistance of any kind. But how much of this success is due to the generous help of parents and sympathisers, and the noble and chivalrous assistance of the teachers! Without these, all my efforts would have gone for naught, and hence I take very little credit to myself in the whole movement.

We all know something of the fire and enthusiasm of beginnings, and we feel that it would be necessary to guard against apathy, indifference, and lack of interest in the future; consequently, we keep up the interest and enthusiasm in the movement by celebrating the anniversary of the foundation of each library by a picnic, concert or some other form of entertainment, and in that way funds are forthcoming with which to add fresh books to the stock or to purchase a neat press to hold them—for we make this press one of the most attractive and conspicuous objects in the school. “*A thing of beauty is a joy for ever*,” sings Keats, and it is in this light that the children look upon their next best friend to

the teacher—the school library press. And when at fourteen or fifteen the child's school days are practically over, he still continues to be a member of his library, and thus keeps up his reading into manhood, or till he can join a school of arts.

III.—BENEFITS FROM THE LIBRARIES.

The utility and importance of School Libraries calls for no special pleading from any one I think ; but, if such were needed, here are three good authorities. The Right Hon. A. H. V. Acland, M.P., and Minister of Public Instruction in the late Liberal ministry, England, said in a recent speech and before he left office :—"There ought to be in connection with every elementary school a good library from which you can lend children the best books which are available to the richest children in the country." J. G. Fitch, M.A., Assistant Commissioner to the late Endowed Schools' Commission and one of H.M. Inspectors of Schools, lecturing during the Lent Term at Cambridge University, 1880, said, among other things in favor of School Libraries :—"In day schools there is a great need for such adjuncts to the material for instruction, and this need is becoming more and more recognised. Until a good library is attached as a matter of course to every one of our elementary schools, a great opportunity of refining the taste and enlarging the knowledge of the young will continue to be wasted and the full usefulness of these institutions will remain unattained. After all, it is the main business of a primary school and indeed a chief part of the business of *every* school to awaken a love of reading and to give children pleasant associations with the thought of books." Add to this a line or so from the *Sydney Morning Herald* of May 26th, 1894, when we opened Lawson Public School Library. In a leading article the *Herald* said among other kind and encouraging things :—"The idea will commend itself for several reasons. Without desiring to force the infant mind into bookishness, the provision of sound and readable books graduated to the growing faculties of school children, cannot but have a good effect in those isolated places, especially where books are rare and hard to come by." That leader opened many a School Library in the colony.

I have said that the libraries are intended for the good of all, that is, for the whole rising generation, for if our young people are not taught to read when young—to acquire a taste for reading and thinking rightly then—when are they to get it? Not surely when they have grown up and formed their characters. The School Libraries I maintain give this in the amplest measure, and it is a gratifying thing for me to observe how widely and intelligently our boys and girls are availing themselves of these opportunities.

But quite apart from this broader view of the case, and the benefits to society thereby, I claim three distinct and tangible gains to our primary schools from these institutions, and I am fortified in my contention by the written reports from my teachers received periodically. These gains are:—

- I. They are improving the moral tone of the children—improving their manners, behaviour, and speech; and how much ground for improvement is here?
- II. They are improving the attendance. We give out the books fortnightly, and any boy or girl who cannot show at least eight day's attendance out of the possible ten without a valid excuse, is refused a book for a further week.

III. They are improving the reading, spelling and general information of the children, and materially assisting the teachers in their daily labours.

These are gains I think that amply repay all for any trouble taken in establishing and maintaining the Libraries. But I am proud to say that our teachers do not view the Library scheme in this rather selfish and narrow light. They take a broader, higher and nobler conception of the movement. They realise in it a power of far-reaching influence for good. They see in it a moral and social purification and a potent factor in the building up of their country's greatness; they see that, when the boy and girl get beyond their direct control and guidance, the quicksands and shoals of life are before them, for to use the words of a distinguished writer: "The fire of our minds is like the fire which the Persians burn on the mountains, it flames night and day and is immortal, and not to be quenched. Upon something it *must* act and feed, upon the pure spirit of knowledge, or upon the foul dregs of polluting passions." I made some slight allusion a little while ago to reports received from my teachers on the aims, scope and influence of the Libraries—and here is one taken haphazard from upwards of a hundred. It is the honest and reliable convictions of only a third-class teacher—a woman (Heaven send us more like her!)—who has given the movement in her school and neighbourhood all her sympathy and practical support since its inception.

"To any thinking person the worth and usefulness of School Libraries must be self-evident, but it is, perhaps, only the dweller in the bush who can fully realise their incalculable power for good. Before the advent of these Libraries the life of the bush child was monotonous, narrow and sordid, and a book, other than a school book, was often an unknown quantity to him. It is scarcely possible to imagine what a new and wonderful world books open up to such a child, nor can their influence on his life and character be calculated.

Every child is a born hero-worshipper: he *will* set up for himself ideals of *some* sort, and on the character of these ideals depends the character of the future man. How important it is then that at this most impressionable period of his life the child should be supplied with right examples and high ideals. These the carefully chosen School Library supplies. Right thought must precede right action, and nothing tends more to right action than an imagination stored with pictures of noble lives and a mind accustomed to great thoughts. If, as Carlyle puts it, 'a thinking man is the worst enemy the Prince of Darkness can have,' a thinking nation must be so in a much greater degree, and we cannot have a *thinking* nation unless it be first a *reading* nation. The School Library makes it possible for us to become a reading nation by placing the best literature within the reach of all, thus putting the child of the remote bush on the same footing with his city brother, and giving to the poorest equal opportunity with the richest. It will, too, by placing healthy literature within such easy reach of the young, counteract and displace the pernicious literature so plentiful in our cities.

To my mind, apart from the sunshine which it lets into the lives of hundreds of children, no more powerful and far-reaching agency for good has ever been introduced than that of the School Library."

I have not touched, except casually, upon the subject of school libraries being subsidised by the State. They are not. But, assuming they were, we should be doing no more than has been done in England, Germany, and other countries. Subsidy, or no subsidy, however, these

institutions should be recognised and encouraged; for no system of primary education to my mind is, or can be complete without them; and, moreover, the intellectual, social and moral well-being of the rising generation demand them.

In conclusion, may I express the hope that I have proved the necessity for, as well as the utility and importance of libraries in connection with our State Schools, and that the movement has your sympathy and moral support.

[Mr. Kevin has written, under the pseudonym of "Arthur Ferres," some good Australian stories—"His First Kangaroo," "His Cousin, the Wallaby," "My Centennial Gift," and "Bush Stories for Children," all of which are descriptive of typical Australian scenery, customs, sports, and country life. They should be in every Public School Library—ED.]

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CHILDREN'S HOME LIBRARIES.

BY MISS MARGARET WINDEYER.

In a conference in which every branch of library economy is discussed, and in the consideration of the questions which underlie the thoughts enfolded in the phrase, "the best reading for the largest number," it must not be forgotten that there are many for whom the benefits to be derived from wholesome reading may be said to be non-existent. Among these are the children of parents who from any cause do not exercise any supervision in the matter of the books that their children read; the children of people who cannot afford to belong to any subscription library, however small the subscription may be, and whose homes are distant from a public library.

For such children, the Home Library (the idea of which was first carried out by Mr. Charles W. Birtwell, secretary of the Boston Children's Aid Society), is of inestimable value; for it gives to children books and a friend; and through these books there may grow in the minds of the children a liking for really good books, a liking which may be instrumental in moulding their character, and shaping their conduct in after years. Mr. Birtwell used to lend books to poor children, and from this kindness the first Home Library grew in Boston in 1887, and now the Home Libraries—so called because they enter the home life of the children—are an important factor in the work of the Boston Children's Aid Society.

A Home Library consists of a group of ten children, from eight to sixteen years of age, living near one another; a library of twenty carefully selected books in a neat little bookcase, placed in the home of one of the children, who is called the librarian; and a visitor. The books circulate amongst the children, and the visitor, a person of sympathetic nature who becomes in every sense the friend of the children, visits them once a week in the home of the librarian, talks over the books with them, explaining all that is not clear, and in an hour gives them help in any way in which she or he can. The date of the lending and return of each volume is

entered in a book provided for the purpose, and the children are encouraged to form an opinion upon each book they read. The recording of such opinions by the librarian or the visitor in a measure induces the children to read appreciatively and to use their minds as they read.

In the Home Libraries it has been found to be of value in the lives of the children to bring to them a knowledge of home games and diversions which are productive of much simple pleasure; so after the exchange of books and the conversations about them, the recording of opinions, perhaps, also after the visitor or one of the children has read aloud, they turn from books to play, in which the visitor will exercise a leading and controlling influence. In some groups there are only girls; in others only boys, though it is considered that in an ideal group there are both boys and girls.

The books remain in the house of the librarian for three months, or for a shorter period, if it appears to the visitor that the children have gained as much as possible from the books and that it would be beneficial to send another set to take their place. The books thus pass from one group to another until they are worn out. Brown paper covers are put on each set of books before they are sent to a group of children, but these covers are not fastened on, in order that the children may remove them to see the pretty binding of the books which they read.

Among the ways in which the Home Libraries as organised in Boston, are of immediate and practical service to the children, is the encouragement given to save the smallest sums of money. A plan that is to be recommended is that of "stamps savings." The visitor gives the stamps to the children in exchange for their pennies. The stamps may then be slightly attached to a card such as the one sent with this paper, and when a child has sufficient value in stamps, they are then redeemed and the visitor goes with the child to open an account at some savings bank. The collection of pennies is then resumed, to be followed by another purchase of stamps and another visit to the savings bank.

To ensure the co-operation of the parents and guardians in the work of the Home Libraries, a little application for membership is used. This is signed by the parent or guardian as well as the child. Twice a year a social meeting of the little librarians, their parents and the visitors is held. In Boston there are now sixty-six libraries or reading groups, and thirty-six different sets of books have been chosen for circulation among them. From these figures it will be seen that many of the sets have been duplicated. The selection of books requires so much time and care that, in order to avoid the possibility of arousing the sensibilities of any of the parents or the children, it is considered better to duplicate the sets than to circulate books that later might have to be withdrawn.

So many questions that require consideration come before the visitors who enter into the lives of the children with whom they come in contact, that in Boston they hold a monthly meeting, lasting an hour and a quarter, for the discussion of such questions.

The Albany Home Libraries differ from those of Boston in several details. As will be seen from the lists of books in the libraries, there is a difference in the manner in which the magazines are issued. In the Boston Home Libraries there are fifteen books and parts of five periodicals in each library; in the Albany Home Libraries there are eighteen books in each library and two magazines are subscribed for regularly for each group of children. The naming of the libraries is a new feature of the work as carried on in Albany. Any person subscribing twenty-five dollars (the cost of a library with its bookcase) is entitled to name the

library; several have been given in memory of, and named after children. Both in Boston and Albany the children themselves choose a name for their group. For instance, the Washington, the Grace Darling, the Cinderella. This name was chosen by a group of children fond of reading fairy-tales. The Hirsch; this name was chosen by a group of Jewish children. The practice of the Columbus group in Albany may be mentioned as an example of the educational features which, under the guidance of the visitor, may be developed in any group. This group wears a badge—a bronze head of Columbus—and they possess a "Life of Columbus," written for juveniles, and a scrap-book containing pictures of him. Their purpose is to become discoverers and to find out as much as possible about their own city. Once a month the group goes for a walk, and they have visited the public buildings, the Geological Hall, the Indian collection, etc. Every week ten minutes are spent in studying the history of the city, its points of interest, the names and situation of the streets.

I send four forms issued by the Home Libraries department of the Boston Children's Aid Society:—

No. 1. Application for admission.

No. 2. Personal information form. (A duplicate containing this information is filed at the society's office.)

No. 3. Visitor's report of work in connection with Home Libraries.

No. 4. Record compiled by visitor of the number of readers of each book and general opinion upon each book in any library.

I send also a stamps savings bank card, and lists of books in the Albany and the Boston Home Libraries, and having been present with the visitor, a lady of judgment and experience, at a Home Library meeting in one of the humblest parts of Boston, I would assure the members of this association that the interest in their books the children showed would encourage any lover of children and of books to try to help a movement in the direction of Home Libraries.

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CHILDREN IN PUBLIC LIBRARIES

BY MISS MARGARET WINSTON.

Among the striking features of library extension in the United States is the provision for, and attention given to, the needs and requirements of juvenile and child readers. In many libraries there is a children's room, for readers under the age of fifteen, in charge of a library assistant, trained by education and temperament to help make the visits of children to the room of advantage to themselves and at the same time, the source of no irritation in the minds of any young people meeting with an earnest desire to profit by their reading. By the maintenance of such a room, the value of the general reading room for the purpose of research and study is increased: children are encouraged to read, and are benefited by contact with the abundant stock, with a room where the imaginative side of the mind of children will very soon find a fair chance of growth, and will influence them in ways which are almost uncounted.

In the public library of the town of Medford, Mass., the children's room is ideal. It is a bright, cheerful room; there are low tables with chairs twelve and eighteen inches high; upon the tables are juvenile magazines and picture books, for it is desired that the youngest children may learn to enjoy coming to the library. At Medford the maximum and minimum ages are sixteen and two years. The children have free access to the shelves round the room, some are three feet, others six feet high; little steps with handles are used by the children to reach the upper shelves. There are author, title and subject cards in the catalogue drawers, which are three feet from the floor; in fact, every provision has been made for the comfort of the children.

In the children's room in the Boston Public Library the walls are hung with solar prints, which add to the interest of the room; there is a card catalogue for the use of the children; upon the tables are double standing cards of a rich brown, bearing in gold letters the words: "This room is reserved for younger readers."

It has been said that the purpose of libraries and books is to bring more sunshine into the lives of our fellow countrymen, more goodwill, more good humour, and more of the habit of being pleased with one another,—and in what way can this purpose, as far as the children are concerned, be more readily accomplished than by the establishment of a children's room in every library?

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AN INDEX TO AUSTRALIAN MAGAZINES AND NEWSPAPERS.

BY HUGH WRIGHT, ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN, PUBLIC LIBRARY OF
NEW SOUTH WALES.

In 1876, when the American Library Association held its first meeting, Mr. Wm. F. Poole, replying to numerous enquiries about a third edition of his "Index to Periodical Literature" suggested that the libraries represented at the conference should co-operate and produce such a work under his direction. Fifty ladies and gentlemen, nearly all of the United States, joined labours with him, and in five years indexed 4737 volumes. The result of their efforts was published in 1882 in a large volume of over 1,400 pages, containing about 200,000 references. The work rapidly gained popularity, and proving so very useful to librarians and literary workers, it has been continued by the issues of three supplements, each covering a period of five years. As some indexers dropped out of the ranks, others took their places, so that the last supplement (which appeared in 1897) was the result of the united efforts of 54 workers.

Admirable as this index is, it allayed a want only to create a craving for more. True, there is the "Annual Literary Index"—a partial index to current articles—to supply the gap until the next five-yearly supplement is issued; but the demand for good indexes has called forth the fine "Index to Periodicals" issued annually by the "Review of Reviews"

office—an advance copy of the one for 1897 has been sent from the office for your notice—and the “Cumulative Index” which is issued monthly, each issue containing the references for the month together with all the matter in the previous issues from January or July as the case may be, for the June number is a semi-annual one, and the July number commences a fresh series cumulating in the same way from July to November, whereas the December number contains all the references published during the year. And still the cry for more continues. Scientists want their special subjects indexed in the excellent manner in which the “*Index Medicus*” classifies the current medical literature of the world. And we who are engaged in library work daily feel the growing need of an index to our local matters. The days of the pamphleteer are fast passing away. The politician and the specialist instead of issuing their brochures contribute to the magazines and the learned societies, with the result that in a few months the articles are lost in the maize of our increasing literature. It is with the intention of supplying a key to this that I ask you to do for Australia what Poole and his co-workers have done for America. The position of librarian is no longer a sinecure. Outsiders are astounded to learn that few have less time for reading than librarians, whose time is taken up in making available, as soon as possible, the written thought of the world. So many books are dealt with that even a good memory becomes treacherous, and soon teaches one the necessity for the early compilation of books of reference. Even articles of comparatively recent date are often difficult to locate. It seems only a couple of months ago that Mr. G. B. Barton contributed his articles on Margaret Catchpole to the *Evening News*, but a search to satisfy an enquirer brought to light that the period was July to December, 1897. And this is not an isolated case. The same writer’s judicial sifting of fact from fiction about Fisher’s Ghost, the articles by the Rev. J. E. Tenison-Woods on “Explorations in North Australia,” and the hundreds of other valuable contributions to our press, are lost for the want of ready references. Only the other day interest in Australia was roused by a cablegram relating certain adventures that are said to have been experienced by Mons. de Rougemont in N.W. Australia. At once the public was on the *qui vive*. Day after day the library was beset with such queries as, “Who have been in the territory?” and “What has been written about the place?” If there be any man in Australia who knows that district well, it is Mr. Harry Stockdale. He has traversed the whole of it from end to end. Has he written about his travels? You cannot say without an index to your newspapers.

The magazines, too, contain a mine of wealth. Most of the articles published in the *Melbourne Review* over twenty years ago may to-day be read with interest and profit by all of you. Some of the critical essays are particularly fine; but, unless they are indexed in some such manner as obtains in the Public Library of New South Wales, they are inaccessible to the multitude. In Sydney we have indexed these articles, and many others that have appeared in Australian periodicals, but a vast number remain untouched. It is too great a task for one library to attempt to complete; but if others would join in the work the labour would be lightened, and on issuing the volume the hidden gems of our literature, the unvarnished facts of our history, and the thousand and one items so often wanted, would be available to libraries—great and small alike.

Volunteers are wanted! Men who will undertake to work *con amore*. There is no direct pecuniary advantage attached to the labour, but there is

a practical training in indexing that would benefit those who are willing to learn. Nor is the task so stupendous as it seems at first glance. The 200,000 references contained in Poole's Index average under 800 entries per year for each worker. That is, say roughly, five minutes work a day. Who, among you, possessing only the least spark of love for his profession, would not willingly give up more time than that to possess such a valuable vade-mecum of Australian matters? Let us anticipate the political situation by federating now at least on this question; and to bring about some practical result of the conference, appoint a committee of three or five gentlemen skilled in library work to direct the compilation and interview the Governments about its publication. I think there would not be much difficulty in obtaining a Government's sanction to print such a valuable book of reference, provided the compilation had been made, and if it came to the worst, that we were refused, there would be the possibility of issuing it through an enterprising publisher.

In the compilation it would be necessary to work according to a set of rules, and we could not do better than adopt the "Guide to Cataloguing" which Mr. H. C. L. Anderson has so ably drawn up. I do not advocate these particular rules because they emanate from the Sydney Public Library, nor because they are the only set that has been issued in these colonies, but because two years' daily experience shows that they can easily hold their own with any issued in the northern hemisphere. Certain modifications would suggest themselves as the work progressed. At the outset it must be understood that articles should be indexed by their titles as well as by their subjects. A man may have written on nothing in particular and given it a fancy title, say, "Old Clothes," then the entry "Clothes, Old" would be sufficient, so far following Poole's plan. Having indexed by titles, wherever possible the articles should be grouped under the subject with which they deal; and here Mr. Anderson's Guide is of infinite value, choosing correct modern terms in place of those now old-fashioned, as voltaic electricity instead of galvanism, conjuring instead of legerdemain, and where two or more terms are widely used to express the same thing, then choosing one and making the synonyms references, and above all establishing the golden rule, "prefer the specific to the generic"—easily remembered, and easily practised. An abuse of this you will find in the "Review of Reviews" Index to Periodicals for 1897, where five columns are devoted to India, when the entries would have been better grouped under the particular divisions with which they deal, as Chitral, plague, cotton, silk, Brahmanism, Mohammedanism, music, &c., and under the general or broad heading, India, had been placed the necessary cross-references to the divisions and allied subjects.

In indexing the newspapers a certain amount of judgment must be exercised. Only articles of value should be noticed. Arrivals of shipping, notices of births, local law news, extracts from other papers that have no bearing on Australian topics, and the many paragraphs and leading articles of ephemeral or purely local interest should be avoided. But scientific reports (not reports of scientific societies), accounts of explorers' travels, historical items, and anything that created a wide-spread interest, such as Deeming's trial and the Atacama case should be indexed.

Poetry, too, should not be overlooked. At present we have to depend on somebody collecting somebody else's work, or somebody publishing somebody's selected poems, so that much good matter remains hidden away that the index would collect together. I have the *Bulletin*

in mind whilst writing this. It is the only anthology of recent Australian verse we possess.

Illustrations of local interest, too, should find a place in the index—not such trashy skits as “Saturday night at the barber’s,” but pictures of our prominent men, of places of historic renown, &c.

Many other details suggest themselves, but they can be dealt with when occasion arises. Meanwhile, finding that an index to Australian Periodical Literature is a necessity, let us co-operate to produce it expeditiously. Each colony should preferably index its own magazines, &c., and to the country libraries assisting could be allotted the indexing of a portion of such sets as they may possess. The results would be sent to a centre where they would be harmonized and edited for the press under the direction of the advising committee. The production of such an index is librarians’ work; it is more—it is their duty.

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THE PLACE OF FICTION IN PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

BY M. W. MACCALLUM, M.A., PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH LITERATURE, SYDNEY UNIVERSITY.

The subject on which I have, somewhat rashly, undertaken to read a paper, is not one that comes to the front in every community. At home, for example, the British Museum, with its right to a copy of every book that appears in the three kingdoms, and with its magnificent revenue, which it can in great part devote to the purchase of foreign publications, is bound to have a practically complete collection of *English* fiction, and need not inquire too curiously about the objections to novels, in its multitudinous acquisitions from abroad. Things are not quite the same with the State library of every colony, certainly they are not, with the Public Library of New South Wales. With a revenue, it may be generous in view of the resources of the State, but certainly inadequate if we consider the number of desirable purchases, we cannot afford to neglect questions as to the selection of particular books and of particular departments of authorship. Such questions, I suppose, force themselves on the notice of the authorities of the State Libraries in every one of the Australasian communities.

Since then we are, in comparison with wealthy institutions at home, a feeble folk, and must exercise discrimination in our appropriation of supplies, the question is, How shall we proceed? And this question is inseparably bound up with another; What are the essential functions of a State Library in a young country?

Now, I think, that, put most generally, these functions are three-fold.

In the first place it may legitimately aim at being a great repository of documents, without paying much attention to their estimation in the eyes of contemporaries.

From this point of view those in charge have to remember that what one generation despises may be immeasurably precious to another. This may be owing to the varying standards of taste and excellence, the cause

that so many famous classical works, for which scholars would now give their right hands, perished in the unsympathetic environment of the middle ages. Or it may be that records, intrinsically worthless, become important for the information they incidentally convey. Mediæval account books have acquired consequence from their economic contents and the light they throw on the history of prices. Trashy books of etiquette have revealed secrets in the development of culture. Chap-books and lampoons have proved quarries for the student of letters and manners.

But it is clear that the collection of such a comprehensive store is with our resources a mere dream and devout imagination. I understand that even the British Museum authorities destroy much that they receive, from sheer lack of space. We, who receive less, are bound to be much more fastidious, from sheer lack of funds. The ideal of a general reservoir is, with us, not to be entertained—except indeed in one department. I think all the Australian colonies should make a specialty of Australian literature. They should aim at acquiring every scrap of print or MS. dealing with the history of the continent, and especially their own section of it, that may with any likelihood turn out to be significant. This they are bound to do for the sake of the future historian of our future federated Australia. But with this limitation, we may say that the function of the Library, as universal collector, should, among us, be strictly subordinate.

II. It may aim at helping research and procuring for the purposes of the investigator what would not otherwise be procurable. Rare and expensive publications, the transactions of learned societies, the proceedings of specialists, should surely be accessible in every civilized community, for it is the whole community that obtains the ultimate benefit from them. They may not be consulted once in a term of years, and yet the time may come when a man, working out some problem in bacteriology or engineering or electricity, needs to refer to them, and it is not only in his interest, but in the interest of knowledge and in the interest of us all that he should be able to do so. Such works are often far beyond the reach of the individual, especially when several long series are required; how then is he to get them if some public institution does not supply the want.

It seems to me, then, that this is one of the most important purposes that a State Library should endeavour to subserve. It can do what no single man can do, and what ought to be done.

Only neither should this, I venture to think, be its paramount and ruling conception in a young country. Even in London, despite the great resources of the Museum, there are various more technical libraries devoted to this branch and to that. It has been found in practice more satisfactory to have separate specialist collections: they are handier, more easily managed, more expeditiously supplied with publications that are working their way into notice. And here, too, we have such libraries, those of the Royal Society, of the Linnean Society, and the like. Their peculiar requirements, we may presume, will be at least as efficiently seen to as could be done by any mixed board of trustees, they are no doubt accessible to all properly equipped workers, and there is no need of double-banking. So I think there is no occasion to try to make the State Library a very complete arsenal of specialist information, except in cases where there is not, and when in the nature of things there cannot be, any other provision.

III. There remains, then, the third function of the Library, to be the magazine of liberal culture, to be generally an educative agency. And

that, I think, should be its chief end in a community that is little more than a hundred years old. We must seek to make it a storehouse of the thoughts and knowledge and ideas that are most likely to enlarge, emancipate, and nourish the mind. We have to regard as its veritable nucleus not such books as may be useful to the antiquarian student of future ages, not such books as may be required by the technical researcher of the present, but those that conceivably or probably will do most to widen the sympathies, exalt the imagination, direct the intelligence, in a word, furnish motives and equipment to man as man. So far as space and funds permit I would endeavour to make the library a reservoir of miscellanea, especially of Australian miscellanea, and a repository to which the specialist may betake himself for help, but I would not let these objects come first; primarily it should be a treasure house of important utterance on the grand catholic interests of humanity. Science, that like Darwin's investigations, does not lose sight of the broader issues, the principles of education, the theory of art, philosophy, criticism, travels, history, biography, poetry, the drama: these and the like should furnish the staple. And if we admit this, why draw the line at prose fiction?

Many used to consider novel-reading positively hurtful. I don't think that nowadays one need take the trouble to answer them at any length. A novel is essentially a story; men are entitled to love stories, and will love them to the end of time. Whether they experience bad effects or not will depend partly on the character of the particular story, partly on the temper they bring to it, partly, perhaps, on the nature of their other reading and business; for stories should not be the sole or chief diet of any one.

But many more objectors, without actually saying that novels are detrimental, have explicitly or implicitly the idea that they are trash. I am not here to extol the many-headed monster of modern fiction, and have no difficulty in admitting that a great many even of the limited number with which I am acquainted, *are* unmitigated trash. But, then, we may say the same of the great majority of biographies and reminiscences and criticisms and scientific hand-books, which are nevertheless admitted without question to the honours of the library shelf. I will go further. I venture to assert, confining myself to a department with which I am pretty familiar, that it is very much rarer to get a first rate biography than a first rate romance. Of course, to a certain extent this is what one would expect, for a far larger quantity of fiction is produced and published. But the fact remains that it would be difficult without reflection to mention half a dozen biographies in English that are approximately excellent, while one could easily cite as many excellent novels by one single author, *e.g.*, to name one who is not of the greatest, by Jane Austen. No doubt it may be answered that the novel is a lower and less arduous kind of composition, in which excellence is more easily attained and is not so much worth attaining. But precisely on this I would join issue with the objectors. It may certainly be a very poor thing, but it may also be a very good thing. For what is a novel? What else but a story with plot, scenes, and persons; what else, therefore, but a prose equivalent to the drama and the epic. And it need not be too much abashed by the side of its older and more honoured sisters. If it has not the compressed significance of the drama, it clearly gives scope for fuller interpretation. If it wants the majestic splendour of the epic, it can surpass it in actuality. If it falls short of both in severity of art, it has a much more

various wealth of resource. Obviously, when we see that the novel is just a story with plot, scenes and persons, that means that it may be almost anything, from worthless sensational adventures and tales with a moral, up to the profoundest revelation of human nature, giving the philosophy of life, insight into character, the exposition of ideals, the presentment of heart-shaking crises. Its range extends from Gaboreau's *Lecoq*, and Day's *Sandford and Merton*, to Hugo's *Notre Dame*, Morris's *House of the Wolfings*, Meredith's *Egoist*, Goethe's *Wilhelm Meister*, and to the paragon of the class—*Don Quixote*. And this makes me very discontented with an argument that I often hear on behalf of novels, that the reading of them may lead to something better. Far be it from me to deny that with novels one may acquire the habit of reading and carry it on in less attractive departments, and it is very possible that stories like *John Inglesant* or *Robert Elsemere*—to mention two for which I have a particular objection—may awaken an interest in history and critical theology. We may remember the confession of the great historian, Thierry, that he was first fired with that enthusiasm for the dark ages which was to bear fruit in so many memorable works, by a passage in Chateaubriand's novel, *Les Martyrs*. But I think it probable that most of those who read *Les Martyrs* with advantage are not stimulated to historical study, and that most of those who read novels are likely to acquire a taste for them rather than be impelled beyond them. At any rate, I think the value of a novel is to be sought in what it is, not in something else that it may conceivably lead to, which possibly enough may be of less real value than itself. The reader of *Romola* will rise from its pages with a new sense of the seriousness of life, and that is the main thing; he may, perhaps, in addition, be incited to study the biography of Savonarola, in which case I can safely prophesy that he will have to encounter some rather barren controversy; he may also be incited, which I consider quite as probable, and quite as desirable, to read more of George Eliot. The reader of *Esmond* will rise from its pages with a clearer conception of the meaning of the word gentleman; he may also be moved to get up the Reign of Queen Anne, or to read more of Thackeray; I do not greatly care which, but if he has to make a choice, and can only do one, I should rather recommend the latter.

For we have to bear in mind that in England, since the strange and disastrous decadence of the drama, it is no exaggeration to say that the greater part of the imaginative genius of the country, so far as the treatment of human nature is concerned, has been expended on the novel. Omit from the annals of our literature the prose writers of fiction, Defoe, Richardson, Fielding, Smollet, Sterne, Goldsmith, Fanny Burney, Jane Austen, Scott, Dickens, Thackeray, the Brontës, George Eliot, down to George Meredith, Thomas Hardy, and Rudyard Kipling, who continue the apostolic succession to our own time—reject them and we lose not only a great part but one of the most characteristic parts of our intellectual heritage. Without them an account of our literature would be like a description of Scottish flowers which should omit the heather, or of the big game of Africa which should omit the lion. All these writers are not only master-workmen, but master-workmen in a very national industry. Can any national library be in the slightest degree complete in which they and their congeners are not represented?

Why, then, should they be ignored?

Is it because they serve the purpose of recreation? Entertaining they are, but some of them, if we are to value them aright, demand very resolute reading. It wants as much determination to tackle *Clarissa Harlowe* as

Johnson's Lives, and after a bout at Meredith's *One of Our Conquerors*, we may well turn for relaxation to Darwin or Herbert Spencer.

But even if they have the gift of attractiveness, is that a reason for excluding them? The State provides not merely Museums, where, to judge by my own experience, it is as possible to fritter away one's time as any where else, but picture galleries for the delight of the eye, and in certain circumstances open-air concerts for the delight of the ear; why not novels, then, to regale the imagination? All the arts, in addition to the pleasure which should be their accompaniment, minister to a spiritual want, and if the State purveys for this in painting and music, I cannot see why it should suddenly stop short and shut the door on fiction.

I think, however, that a reason for the objection to novels in national libraries may be found in an apparently illogical exception made by Government in catering for the public requirements. Modern States provide for art galleries, for museums, for gardens, to some extent for music, but I think more of them provides for a theatre. Of course we should not expect that in British communities where many worthy people disapprove of the drama. But even on the continent of Europe, where the importance of the stage is recognised, where politics and municipalities subsidise the play-house and make it a real vehicle of culture, the representations are nowhere open to the public without the payment of a fee. This is especially noticeable in Germany, where the influence of the State is so all-pervasive and omnipresent, and where the theatre is more munificently endowed than it has ever been since the times of antique Athens. While the ancient spectacles were open—or at least the poorer citizens could obtain their entrance money on application—for admission to the modern ones all must have recourse to their own purses.

Why should that be in States that believe, as I think rightly, that the drama may be made an influence for culture, and that subsidises companies to have a certain number of the pieces of such writers as Shakespeare, Molière and Schiller presented with some frequency during the year? I think the explanation is an exclusively practical one, the difficulty of providing for all the population. The ancient open-air theatre could accommodate a very large audience. The biggest modern play-house can accommodate comparatively few; otherwise, I confess, I don't see why the Government should have free galleries with the masterpieces of Raphael and Rembrandt, and not give free performances of masterpieces like *Hamlet* and *Wallenstein*.

Now it is much the same with fiction in libraries. All healthy minds love stories. The attraction of novels is almost as great as the attraction of the stage, and the constituency appealed to is a good deal larger. How could accommodation be supplied for even a small fraction of those who find pleasure and satisfaction in such reading? And then there is no gainsaying the fact that though many novels, like many dramas, may and should be taken seriously and critically, almost all of them can also be read merely for the momentary relish. The most socialistic will admit that the purveying of pastime, if the state is to purvey pastime at all, is at least, one of its less urgent duties: and the most thorough-going advocate of novels will admit that they are particularly apt to lend themselves to mere pastime. We do not want our space to be usurped by those who seek distraction in the novel of the week or of the month, even if it be of the stuff to deserve a longer existence. The problem is a very easy one for the authorities of the British Museum; in it there is a reading-room of unusual dimensions, many thousands of standard works of reference are placed on the wall-shelves whence they can be got by the

student for himself. Other books he must apply for, and he is generally kept a long time waiting for them. So long, that unless he can return the next day, in which case he has them kept for him, it is hardly worth while to go at all. This, of course, is inevitable in the case of so vast a collection, however admirably arranged it may be. But I think I have observed that one is kept waiting a particularly long time for a novel. Well, the result is that those frivolous readers, who would go to pick up current fiction, find that the game is not worth the candle.

But here we cannot adopt such methods, and it would be a huge pity to have our limited space usurped by the casual novel-reader.

I think, then, that we are in this dilemma. On the one hand novels are an integral, characteristic, and most excellent part of our literature, and, therefore, should be in the library. On the other they are apt to be read only for desultory amusement, and, therefore, they should not be allowed by their presence to interfere with more earnest requirements.

And I fear that I have no solution of the difficulty, and that the conclusion I reach is no conclusion at all.

But this much is evident. The novel that takes society by storm is not always, or even often, a very good one. It is run after for a few days by people who like to be considered up to date; then it is lost in the ranks of the Great Unread. And considering the flashy reputation of much fiction and its inner vacuity, considering that it is frequently in request for the sake of nothing better than intellectual dissipation, for fashion or excitement or whim, I think, not, indeed, that it should be altogether excluded, but that it should be subjected to a very severe, and, in most cases, a somewhat lengthy quarantine.

For these reasons it has been the practice of the trustees of the Sydney Public Library to admit novels only when the author is dead. This provides a rough and ready solution, for which a great deal may be said. It dismisses as beyond its sphere the spasmodic demand. It is also a guarantee against rash judgment, for, if a writer, who has gone over to the majority, still stands out conspicuous among them, it means that his productions have something of a permanent quality.

Still, for two reasons, I cannot consider this method altogether adequate.

(1.) It is putting fiction at a disadvantage as compared with other departments. The same test is not imposed, and has never been suggested for biography, history, travels, poetry, and the like, in which, as I have said, the quantity of trash is likely to be, not absolutely, but proportionally, just as high.

And (2)—which is more important—it may easily happen that novels are recognised as classics before the author's death, and may then be rather hard for a student in humble circumstances to procure. I shall draw my illustration from the safe and undebatable ground of the past. It is beyond question that George Eliot's novels were, even in her life-time, accepted as standard works, and some of them were not easy to come by. Yet on the principle we adopt, these, her masterpieces would have been excluded from our library, while we should have had no scruple in admitting her poems and dramas, which it is, perhaps, a compliment to describe as second-rate productions.

I am therefore forced to the opinion that the least objectionable method is to empower an advisory committee composed of men of literary training, to select fiction, including contemporary fiction, for the library. By its standing orders this committee would be uncompromising and draconic, instructed to err on the side rather of severity than of

leniency. They would have to consider the permanent value of a book or author, the real library qualities as opposed to those that obtain a popular and adventitious success. Some works, indeed, have a certain significance less for their inherent merit than as illustrating a phase of task or opinion; but about these there is no hurry. Genuine worth should be the sole criterion, and in doubtful cases it would be well to await the counsel of years.

This scheme is not ideally perfect, for the simple reason that, to make it quite satisfactory, the advisors would have to be infallible, and unfortunately infallibility is as unattainable in the criticism of books as in everything else. Probably those who are best acquainted with literature, will be readiest to admit that they make mistakes, and mistakes that they themselves come to acknowledge. Even with minds fairly mature, and experience fairly extensive, they find themselves carried away by some novelty of treatment, and only after a while *recollect themselves*, so to speak, and see that they succumbed to the unexpectedness, not to the power of the appeal. And, conversely, they are sometimes repelled or left cold by excellences that they end by learning to admire. And besides the errors they come to correct there are the more numerous ones that their mental limitations prevent them from ever detecting. So here, too, we must frankly take into account what is called the personal equation. The advisors cannot but have their blind sides, which will disable them from appreciating important works, they cannot but have—and this is perhaps the greater risk—their hobbies and enthusiasms, which will make them form an exaggerated estimate of what is congenial. Still, this is an inconvenience that has to be faced, not only in regard to fiction but in regard to everything else, and I do not think that in practice much mischief is likely to be done. For men of real literary training will be ready to give due weight to the praise of competent persons, even if they cannot join in it; nor will they be in a hurry to force their own views unreasonably, however convinced of them they may be.

And with all its defects this seems to me the best, and I had almost said the only, way of attaining in some measure the end which apparently is the right one; to secure to our national collection the masterpieces of fiction without diverting it from its true function and letting it occupy ground more proper to the Book Club and the Circulating Library.

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ABUSE OF FICTION IN LENDING LIBRARIES.

BY WM. M. FAIRLAND, SECRETARY, SYDNEY SCHOOL OF ARTS.

A very large proportion of the books applied for by members at the Lending Libraries are works of fiction. If anyone has the temerity to doubt this statement I would refer him to the following statistics of circulation.

First, to extracts from M. D. O'Brien's article in "A Plea for Liberty," edited by Thos. Mackay, as follows, viz.: Circulation of Free Lending Libraries compiled in 1890.

THE CAMBRIDGE FREE LIBRARY.

From 1858 to 1889 (over 30 years): Theology and Philosophy, 26,888; History, 95,162; Biography, 35,445; Juvenile Books, 75,004; Law Politics and Commerce, 9,038; Science and Art, 35,475; Natural History, 19,802; Poetry, 30,570; Miscellaneous Literature, 41,004; Fiction, 1,073,584; Periodical Literature, largely made up of Fiction—long and short stories, 149,197; total 1,591,169.

NORWICH FREE LIBRARY.

From 1878 to 1888—ten years: Art, Science and Political Economy, 13,451; Biography, 14,596; Poetry and Drama, 5,471; History and Travel, 27,601; Law and Theology, 3,056; Natural History, 5,348; Fiction, 346,662; Magazines and Reviews, 81,078; total 497,263.

Work in the following 12 Public Libraries, with the percentage of issue of prose fiction as compared with the gross issue:—Liverpool, (76); Birmingham, (64); Manchester, (70); Leeds, (57); Sheffield, (65); Bristol, (57); Leicester, (60); Sunderland, (85); Preston, (68); Norwich, (75); Wolverhampton, (70); Rochdale, (81).

The following figures showing the classes of books used at the Newcastle-on-Tyne Free Library during 1880 to 1881, (one year), are of interest, viz.:—Miss Braddon's Novels, 2,100; Bain's "Mental and Moral Science," 12; Grant's Novels, 1,320; Butler's "Analogy," 15; Lever's Works, 4,056; Kant's "Critique of Pure Reason," 4; Lytton's Novels, 4,901; Locke's "On the Understanding," 8; Scott's Novels, 3,300; Mill's "Logic," 14; Dickens' Novels, 6,810; Macaulay's "History of England," 64; Ouida's Novels, 1,020; Darwin's "Origin of Species," 36; Wood's Novels, 1,481; Mill's "Political Economy," 11; Worboise's Novels, 1,964; Smith's "Wealth of Nations," 14; Collins' Novels, 1,368.

The above are figures of operations in the principal Free Public Lending Libraries of England, which are supported by the municipal rate of one penny in the pound, that being the limit allowed by law. The statistics of American Free Lending Libraries produce still stronger evidence of the extraordinary demand for Fiction.

Secondly, coming nearer home, the circulation of the Sydney Mechanics' School of Arts, (the largest Institution of its kind in the colonies,) for seven years from 1891 to 1897, inclusive, was:—History, 10,224; Biography, 14,784; Geography, Voyages and Travels, 19,341; Poetry and Fine Arts, 8,395; Political Economy, Theology, 15,833; Science (General), 14,093; Miscellaneous Essays, etc., 16,147; Fiction, 680,107; Periodical Literature, 196,090; total 975,091.

The above statistics furnish conclusive proof of the preponderance of the demand for Fiction. This excessive demand for, and use of, one class only of literature, constitutes a serious abuse. A moderate and rational use of Fiction is beneficial, but the perusal of Fiction only, to the exclusion of History, Philosophy, Science, Travels, etc., must surely be injurious, to the extent of retarding the instruction and the broadening of the mental faculties. I believe a large number of members read only the historical and better class Fiction, but, it is also evident that a very considerable number do peruse only what may be termed sensational and trashy novels. The body cannot be healthily sustained by a jam tart diet only; to produce firmness and strength, roast beef must be occasionally partaken of. Fiction may be termed the jam tart diet of the mind, and it cannot be healthy, vigorous, and strong, without the roast beef food supplied by a reasonable use of History, Science, Biography,

Travel, etc. As the demand for Fiction is so great, authors and publishers, (who must live), are compelled to devote most of their time and effort to the production of novels; and as, unfortunately, there is a rather large section of readers which favours highly sensational works, authors are frequently compelled to write books, the tendencies of which are quite at variance with their own views and opinions; hence the production of much trashy literature, discreditable to the writer and worse than useless to the reader. There is a very great tendency in the present day to go to extremes. The consensus of opinion appears to be that the rational and moderate use of pure alcohol is invigorating and beneficial to the physical system, but the excessive use of spirits, (especially that of inferior quality), is very pernicious and destructive to both our bodily and also our mental parts. So in a sense are our minds affected by the use or abuse of Fiction. The perusal of pure, wholesome, and substantial novels will relieve the brain when taxed and tried by severe study or business worries, and afford a most salutary recreation for the mental faculties. This is the proper use of Fiction. The abuse of it consists in the absorption of, and craving for sensational and trashy novels, to the exclusion of all other kinds of literature, the effect of which is to unhinge the mind, narrow its capacities, and to destroy its powers of concentration of thought.

There are various classes or styles of Fiction, viz.:—the historical—sound and good as a rule—favoured by a large number of readers; the sensational, (blood and thunder style), with very many patrons; the socialistic, with far too many adherents; the magazine and newspaper style also very largely used; and the novelette class, strong in evidence with railway travellers—especially those of the third class.

With the improvement both in literary matter and the skill displayed of late years in supplying the enormous demand for Fiction, there has crept in a great wave of cleverness—of writing for effect and notoriety, instead of from any higher motive or true love of art; of pandering to public taste already satiated with too much light and ephemeral literature, and ever seeking for new excitement; in a word, what has been called the sensational school. There is too much proneness with very many to fall in with any theory of progress which appeals to the sympathies, and to accept the wildest notions of social reorganisation. Mr. C. D. Warner in the "Atlantic Monthly," Vol. 51, referring to America, says, "The papers usurp the place of books, and, to a large extent, of periodicals; and many people read nothing but the stories in the newspapers, causing the mind to become demoralised, gradually losing the power of concentration or continuous thought; the mind loses the power of discrimination; the taste is lowered, and the mental appetite becomes diseased; possibly a million readers have to depend upon what some one unknown and irresponsible person may provide in the columns of the newspapers. Instead of going to the library and selecting some good, wholesome, and instructive reading, they waste their time in partaking of a literary hash, and, generally, a very bad hash."

Another large section of readers who encourage and support the abuse are the artisans, shop girls, etc., who travel by railway in England, America, and other places, who occupy most of the time of transit in devouring penny novelettes and sensational papers, the more blood-thirsty and blood-curdling the plot, the better it is appreciated. One publishing company in London claims that its penny novelettes, issued weekly, reach seven million readers. The following are the opinions of some eminent literary men respecting the types, moralities, tendencies, and other features

of Fiction, which, I venture to think, will be of interest as bearing upon the abuses of Fiction. H. W. Mabie in the "Forum," Vol. 19, on the "Two Eternal Types of Fiction," says, "The types are Realism, and Idealism or Romanticism, portrayed by the Hero and the Wanderer. The Hero in the novel of romance achieves, and the Wanderer in the novel of adventure experiences. The realistic novel has been pushed too far and has lost reality by exaggeration of mechanical accuracy—and it will cease at least for a time to be the dominant novel. Novels of romance, adventure, plot and incident exercise an almost controlling influence at the present time. The Hero and the Wanderer are still and always will be the great human types; and they are therefore the types which will continue to dominate Fiction. These figures are as constant in Fiction as they were in mythology; from the days of the earliest Greek and Oriental stories to these days of Stevenson, Barrie, and Crawford they have never lost their hold on the imagination of the race. Achievement and adventure, action and experience, are not only as great a part of human life as ever, but they cast as deep a spell on the imagination; they are real and enduring in Fiction because they are real and enduring in life. We shall always have the fact with us, and the more clearly we see and comprehend it, the sounder will be our life and our art."

Andrew Lang, in the *North American Review*, Vol. 161, on "Tendencies in Fiction," says, "Dickens sacrificed much to tendencies; several of his tales are directed at abuses. But after the deaths of our great novelists, the novel somehow has become a more and more potent literary engine, till, like Aaron's rod, it has swallowed up all the other species of literature. When the public says 'literature,' the public means novels—and new novels. We cannot scarcely be said to have any new historians who are read as Macaulay, Froude, Gibbon or Carlyle were read. The public does not care for history. History, philosophy, and theology are not now read as our fathers read them in works of theology, philosophy and history. These branches of literature now exist merely as 'stock,' in the 'culinary' sense, for novels. History itself reaches the world in historical novels. Every matter of discussion, the relations of the sexes, the foundations of belief, the distribution of wealth, is mixed up with a smooth love tale, and thus the cup of learning, as Lucretius recommends, has honey smeared on its lips, and is drained by the thirsty soul. Interested in many grave and in some repulsive matters, the public declines to study these themes in the treatises of specialists, and devours them when they are sandwiched between layers of Fiction. This taste is in itself a 'tendency' worth noting, and necessarily the novels of an age like ours are replete with tendencies. We are humanitarian, and so are our novels; revolutionary, and so are our novels. Hysterics really seem to be the chief literary motive of some strangely popular lady authors. The tendency represented in their novels is the revolt of some women against the Nature of Things, and especially against the nature of their sex. They want to have all the freedom which men exercise contrary to the acknowledged laws of Christian morals. The books *Superfluous Woman*, *The Heavenly Twins*, and *The Yellow Aster*, illustrate this hysterical tendency. Happily there are other tendencies than those of frivolity, fashion, bad taste, vice, sham, social science, sciolistic theology and hysterics. There is the good old tendency to love a plain tale of adventure, of honest love, and fair fighting. We have Gentlemen of France, we have knob-nosed Kaffirs, and battles with sacred crocodiles, we have *The Prisoner of Zenda*, *Micah Clarke*, *The*

White Company, and Mr. Stevenson's *Highlanders* and *Lowlanders*. Here is primitive Fiction: here is what men and boys have always read for the sheer delight of the fancy. The heroines are stainless and fair, the men are brave and loyal, the villains come to a bad end, and all this is frankly popular. We have no Scott, no Dickens, no Fielding, but we have honest, upright romancers, who make us forget our problems and the questions that are so much with us, in the air of moor and heath, on the highway, on the battlefield, in the deadly breach. Our novels in this kind are not works of immortal genius: only five or six novelists are immortal. But the honest human nature that they deal with, the wholesome human need of recreation to which they appeal, these are immortal and universal." Arthur Goddard, in *Lippincott*, Vol. 45, on "Fiction for the People," writes, "Many weekly newspapers rely largely for their popularity upon the sensational stories appearing in their columns. One well known purveyor of this class of work, (Mr. Tillotson), is said to have deemed a "little immorality" an essential element of success. The influence of a story read by thousands of people while the judgment is yet green and the emotions are easily excited, may be both immediate and enduring for evil or for good, and the "little immorality" may develop in time into a veritable upas tree, blighting all upon whom its shadows fall. Not that Mr. Tillotson meant that an "immoral tendency" was either desirable or tolerable, and it cannot be too strongly insisted upon by writers of Fiction alike in their own justification if needs be, and in the interests of an unfettered literature, that it is tendency and not incident which determines the morality or immorality of a story. It does not always follow that because a story contains nothing calculated to call up a blush upon the cheek, it is necessarily moral in "tendency," and a story dealing with folly and frivolity, or even with vice and crime, may yet be ethically irreproachable. He would be a bold critic who would impugn the morality of *Adam Bede*, of *The Scarlet Letter*, of *Jane Eyre*, or even of many of 'Ouida's' stories, as, though vice and immorality may figure largely in their pages, they are either held up to obloquy and contempt, or shown to bring about their own swift and certain punishment. So long as vice is punished and virtue rewarded a story cannot be justly called immoral. It is immoral when only the roses and raptures of vice are painted, or as in the case of Zola, when God-given genius seeks out all the blurs and blotches, the stains and scars of humanity, looks upon womanly beauty and manly strength only to drag them down and befoul them with the mire of its own imaginings, and uses its great power, not to show that humanity, at its lowest, is capable of rising to better things, but that at its best it is but little better than the brutes—of such is the literature of despair—and it is the gospel of hope which should, above all else, be preached by the writer of Fiction for the people. Some of the most notable essentials of successful popular Fiction are a benignity of tone, a wholesome moral tendency, a speaking from heart to heart, a seeking of the better side of human nature, an aspiration at least towards the stars rather than a wilful grovelling in the mud—a genial healthy optimism and broad humanity without which skilful workmanship is of small avail.

The popular taste for sensationalism is perfectly comprehensible and pardonable. The masses, most of whom lead colourless lives, long to be taken by the romancer out of themselves and their commonplace surroundings. There is so little life, colour, variety, emotion, romance, in their own existence that they crave for them in the papers and books

of their favourite teller of stories—and the farther he leads them from the dull grey atmosphere and beaten track of their narrow personal experience, so much the more do they welcome him and yield up their imaginations to him with a confidence which means substantial satisfaction and success to the supplier of their mental and sentimental needs. Thackeray thoroughly understood this when he said, “The real business of life can form but little portion of the novelists’ budget—all authors can do is to depict men *out* of their business—in the passions, loves, laughter, amusements, hatreds, and what not.”

Malcolm McColl, in the *Contemporary*, Vol. 60, on “Morality in Fiction,” speaks as follows:—“Plato emphatically declared that he was no true artist who worked without a moral purpose; and a moral purpose runs through all his own dialogues. In fact, a novelist cannot help showing his moral sympathies in his creations, and he who can regard his characters with the same ethical indifference as the painter does the colours on his palette is no artist at all. . . . The greatest critic of ancient Greece, (Aristotle), perhaps of the world—the master of all who know—says that the true end of tragedy is to purify the passions, and he condemns as bad art any work that has an immoral tendency; which is but another way of saying that morality is the end of the dramatic art. The greatest of English art critics, insists on the same truth. ‘The highest thing,’ says Ruskin, ‘that art can do is to set before you the true image of the presence of a noble human being. It has never done more than this, and it ought not to do less.’ And to illustrate ‘the essential relations of art to morality,’ he quotes a fine passage in which Plato lays it down that the business of a poet, and, indeed, of every artist, is to ‘create for us the image of a noble morality,’ ‘so that the young men, living in a wholesome atmosphere, may be profited by everything that, in work fairly wrought, may touch them through hearing or sight—as if it were a breeze bringing health to them from places strong for life.’ To claim, then, that novels are not amenable to criticism on moral, but only on artistic grounds, is an absurdity. But what do we mean when we condemn a novel as ‘immoral?’ It is not necessarily immoral because it deals with immoral subjects, or paints immoral character. The morality or immorality of the work depends on the bias which it is calculated to give to our sympathies. If that bias is towards evil, the novel is immoral; if towards good, it is moral. The subject has little or nothing to do with it. There is hardly any subject with which a great artist may not deal in such a way as to influence for good those who contemplate it—and if his own soul is pure his tact may be trusted to guide him aright. All depends, therefore, not on the subject, but on the artist’s treatment of it. Compare in this respect the art of classic Paganism in its prime and in its decadence. In the one we see, for example, the nude figure represented with such purity of conception and such grace and refinement in execution as to excite feelings of admiration and reverence. In the other, (*e.g.*, the pornographic sculpture and mural decorations found in Pompeii), we see men and women—yes, and young children of both sexes—depicted in a way that degrades humanity below the level of the brutes. No excellence in style or execution can redeem from the just stigma of vile art any work of which the conception and treatment are immoral.”

The Editor of the *Church Quarterly Review* writes as follows respecting the tendencies of high class novels:—“Sir Walter Scott said, ‘I have been, perhaps, the most voluminous writer of the day, and it is a comfort to me to think that I have tried to unsettle no man’s faith, to

corrupt no man's principle.' Sir Walter Scott's novels created a new feeling with regard to Fiction, and sensible people rebelled against the theory that novel reading was necessarily a waste of time. His works could be read by highly cultured men and women with benefit, and none of his works could bring a blush on the faces of innocent school girls. The great wizard of the north touched the novel with his magic wand and it lost all its moral unwholesomeness, and all its intellectual weakness. He did not evade delicate matters, which no true picture of real life can ignore—but how delicately he treats them—in the "Heart of Midlothian" with what consummate skill he draws the reader's sympathy away from the beautiful and erring sister to the homely and virtuous one. In all the realms of Fiction there is not a more lovable character than Jeannie Deans. The example of Sir Walter Scott has been followed by the most eminent of his successors; none but bigots can accuse Thackeray, Dickens, George Eliot, G. P. R. James, Harrison Ainsworth, Bulwer Lytton, Disraeli, or Anthony Trollope of writing what was really antagonistic to christian theology or christian morality."

I have referred so far to the extent of the abuse—the classes of persons affected by it, and the nature and tendencies of the various classes of Fiction, as expressed by various writers. I shall now endeavour to suggest a course and effort which might be made to, at all events, lessen the evil and its effects on the next generation. As a large number of Fiction abusers are adults it would be a most difficult matter to convince them of the misuse. The young of both sexes are, or should be, more amenable to advice and reason—you can guide and train a growing tree to stateliness and beauty, but you cannot change or alter a gnarled or twisted oak. While the young minds are impressionable, educate them in our schools and colleges up to a proper and sound taste for the best literature. At present there is no special study provided in our schools which has for its object the education of the pupils' minds as to the classes and types of literature which instruct and widen the mental capacities and are therefore worthy of selection and study, also the classes of spurious, trashy literature, which all sensible people should avoid.

Mr. C. D. Warner, in the *Atlantic Monthly*, Vol. 51, writes as follows respecting the absence in the schools of America of any study to guide students to select the best literature:—"Nothing is being done in our schools to create a taste for good literature. The habit of continuous pursuit of a subject with comprehension of its relations is not acquired, and no conception is gained of the entirety of literature, or its importance to human life—consequently there is no power of judgment or faculty of discrimination. The young mind is open to noble thought and to high conceptions—it follows, by association, easily along the historic and literary line, and not only do great names and fine pieces of literature become familiar, but the meaning of the continual life in the world begins to be apprehended. This, then, is a splendid opportunity to create in the youthful mind a bias for substantial literary exercise and effort, which will tend to enlarge the capacities of the brain and all its powers of thought and judgment, and enable it in coming years to distinguish between the wheat and chaff of literature. It is absurd to say that the study of literature or the cultivation of a love for, and discrimination of, good and bad literature can be taught and acquired after the school days have passed. The bulk of public school pupils immediately they leave school enter upon some work or business, and are quite unable to continue any educational effort. No, this work should be embodied with

the ordinary curriculum of school work, and the mind thus educated to the power of right thinking. The common schools must do for literature what the art schools are doing for art. When this truth is recognised in the common schools, and literature is given its proper place, not only for the development of the mind but as the most easily opened door to history, art, science, and general intelligence, we shall see the taste of the reading public undergo a mighty change. It will not care for the Fiction it likes at present and which does little more than enfeeble its powers; and there can be no doubt that Fiction will then rise to supply the demand for something better. When the *trash* does not sell, the *trash* will not be produced, and those who are only capable of supplying the present demand will perhaps find a more useful occupation. It will be again evident that literature is not a trade, but an art, requiring peculiar powers and patient training. When people know how to read, authors will know how to write. The general public and the public school pupils lack inspiration and ideality—the school does not cultivate the literary sense, and the general public lacks literary discrimination, and the novels produced have little ideality and simply respond to the demand of the times. It is therefore evident that the culture of the literary taste should be provided for in the educational schemes for the public, so that the mind may be capable of comprehending history and the motives of human action—that the mind may not only be enriched, but become discriminating and able to estimate the value of events and opinions. The best literature is not only the best means of awakening the young mind, the stimulus most congenial, but it is the best foundation for broad and general culture. Manual training is effective in giving definiteness to the desired development of muscle—so also is systematic literary training or culture of the mind effective in giving powers of concentration of thought and of discrimination.”

I am completely in accord with Mr. Warner's views quoted above, and, I venture to strongly recommend that the Boards and Controllers of all colleges and schools seriously consider the advisability of providing some special study of the classes of literature most desirable, and what classes should be rejected, so that young people may be educated to discriminate for themselves. Also that all Professors and persons having opportunities and influence over the masses may on every occasion advocate and advise a wise selection of substantial and useful literature.

I know how difficult it is to change or alter the bent and inclinations of adults and to break through habits acquired by long experience. The foregoing statements, I think, prove how strong and deeprooted is the prejudice and practice of reading Fiction only; but let a strong and systematic effort be made to convince the masses that a wise selection of literature is of paramount importance—then, if successful, or even only partially so, we shall be a wiser, stronger, and happier people.

In a word, our schools and colleges do not educate—they instruct. They do not foster habits of thought—they merely develop memory. I venture to think that if more attention were given to the development of the capacity of each to grasp fundamental principles instead of details, (to which, in later years, with greater powers, each could attend), not only in the matter with which I am dealing more particularly to-night, but, in all subjects there would be a healthier taste and a nobler and purer tone.

MUNICIPAL LIBRARIES.

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SYDNEY.

By Municipal Libraries I wish to imply Free Lending Libraries, controlled directly or indirectly by the Municipal authorities within whose bounds they are situated, and supported by a special rate levied by the same authorities.

The general subject of Free Libraries has been the theme of ardent controversy, by some denounced as the "Socialist's Continuation School," and by others supported as the legitimate demands of the people, and as proper a function of government as primary education.

Notwithstanding such controversies, practical politics, being an eclectic science, takes that which seems good and useful without regard to logic or consistency, and rejects that which it does not require, with equal impartiality. It has been said that the purpose of a library and of books was to bring more sunshine into the lives of our fellow countrymen, more good will, more good humour, and more of the habit of being pleased with one another; or, as Mr. John Morley has put it, "To bring sunshine into our hearts and drive moonshine out of our heads." If this be so, then a Free Library which appeals to a wider circle than one which is not free, is a wise investment, and deserves the closest attention of social economists and reformers.

Now, dismissing both the political and academical aspects of the controversy, I wish to point to the real work done in other parts of the world on the lines which it is the object of this paper to advocate here, and to point the moral that what has been found wise and fruitful of good in those places, may be transplanted to these colonies where it is reasonable to infer a similar success would follow.

It is my intention to briefly refer to the work done in this direction in America and in some of the great towns of England. Unfortunately my selection of examples has been determined for me by the accident of opportunity to procure evidence; for I have found that there is not that interchange of reports between the libraries of the colonies and the older countries which would readily place the required information within reach. It will, however, be one of the objects of this association to remedy this loss.

In the examples which I shall refer to I think the comparisons valuable because the general conditions of the people as well as their national temperaments are much alike. While we may be pardonably proud of the opportunities afforded to youth for the acquirement of sound primary education, there yet remains a wide field at present inadequately tilled for the pleasant and profitable employment of the leisure of the great body of the citizens, whose aspirations should be cultivated and wants supplied by the cheap, easy, and efficient provision of the best literature of the world. As I have said, I shall proceed to enforce my views by examples. As an evidence of the deep interest taken in the library movement by all classes in America I shall first refer to what is done in the State of New York.

In this State there are altogether 704 libraries, with upwards of 4,000,000 volumes: of these 290 are free to the public, and 414 are supported

by taxation on the municipal rates, 302 are state aided, the balance are supported by colleges, &c. Eighty-one libraries have 10,000 volumes or more, 62 have 15,000, 49 have 20,000, 41 have 25,000, 30 have 30,000, 20 have 40,000, 13 have 70,000, 6 have 100,000, 2 have 200,000.

Out of 321 libraries that are "public" in the sense of being controlled by voters or their representatives, 280 are in charge of school authorities. If to these are added 128 other libraries connected with academies, 55 belonging to colleges and 86 controlled by institutions of one kind or another, the total is 549, leaving 155 to include all those directly controlled by the public independently of the schools, Government libraries, Library Associations, and the professional and technical collections of all sorts. Twenty of these are managed by Trustees of an endowment, and 71 by Library Associations. It is noteworthy that of the whole 704 libraries in the state, 475 are affiliated to the University of the State, *i.e.*, under a sort of federal control.

What is done in this state is illustrative of the enterprise throughout America in providing the public with high class literature. That these libraries are wanted must be conceded, or otherwise they would not be supported by a community, least of all by an American one.

As an example of *method* I will now take another American city, Boston, which loyal Bostonians regard as the centre of American culture. Here we find a similar activity displayed. The Boston Public Library is governed by trustees appointed by the civic authorities, to whom annual progress reports are made. The funds for carrying on the work are provided by the city council, but whether such monies are raised by a special rate for the purpose I have not been able to ascertain. The appropriation granted for the year 1895 was £35,000, exclusive of special grants for extensive additions to the buildings carried out in that year; and the annual grants here stated are largely supplemented by munificent private endowments for special objects, the income from which, during the same year, was £2,000, the year's expenses were £44,000 roughly.

There are 10 branches and 14 delivery stations. A branch is a local collection of books with a newsroom connected. A delivery station is an office, or a shop, or stall, where borrowers may leave their book and card on going to business in the morning, and take up another book on returning home in the evening, a service of runners being employed to make the exchanges during the day.

The total number of rate-supported libraries in Great Britain is 335, of which 270 are in England, 18 in Ireland, 32 in Scotland, and 15 in Wales.

In addition to the general particulars given above I may be permitted to add a few remarks dealing with certain special features. The private endowments to the Boston Library, for instance, have been granted for the purchase of books upon particular subjects, and as these collections are located in certain of the libraries it tends to specialise those branches. Children, too, are specially catered for, as they are rightly regarded as the future readers, and every effort is made to attract them. Separate rooms are set apart, suitable books and magazines provided, and the attendants are selected for their sympathetic treatment of the young. The total number of new books added to the Boston library in one year was 30,000, of which a moiety was donated. The binding was done partly on the premises and partly by contract, 10,000 and 7,000 being respectively the number of volumes dealt with.

The estimated value of the books is £400,000. The number of attendants of all grades is 279.

From what I have here stated it will be clear how ably and efficiently the wants of the American people in this direction are catered for and stimulated.

Nor do the Americans hold a monopoly of this enterprise, for the great towns of England pursue similar methods and achieve a great success.

The number of readers of books and newspapers in the Manchester Free Public Library for the year 1896 totalled 6,061,573. It is specially interesting to note that in dealing with this vast number of books and borrowers the loss of books was only 18. This is particularly remarkable, and should be an all sufficient reply to the fear that great loss would follow from free lending.

A newsroom is attached to each Branch library, as well as special rooms and literature for boys and girls.

The number of books in the whole Library is 266,514; number of borrowers 49,789; annual expenditure on new books £16,185; library rate amounts to £19,563.

Liverpool has a combined Free Library, Museum, and Art Gallery, and was one of the first municipalities in England to tax her citizens to provide them with books to read. The rate is 1d. in the £, and has been so since 1852; the income from it is £15,729. The number of volumes is 111,000, and of borrowers 18,913.

The four great Branch libraries have cost nearly £15,000 each to build, and are very complete as well as handsome buildings.

According to the 25th annual report the Birmingham Free Library is another example of a large central library with 10 branches supported from the rates which produce £14,610. The cost of maintaining these libraries, exclusive of interest and sinking fund, was £14,409. A great feature about this institution is the care taken to cater for the blind by the provision of embossed reading books.

What I have said about these libraries will suffice, I think, to show how earnestly and systematically the scheme of Free Libraries has been worked to supply the wants of readers of all classes. Without a doubt these institutions, by their number and facilities, have created readers, and that I regard as one of their chief advantages. The fact that they have been supported by a levy on the rates direct has caused the rate-payers to watch their management with critical eyes, from which has resulted their high state of efficiency, while the desire to use what is their own has taken many readers to the tables in the first instance. The library movement has *led* the people, and the subsequent experience shows the happiest results. Ample funds and wise control have marked the administration of Municipal Libraries elsewhere then why should not a similar policy produce similar results in these colonies.

It will now be necessary for me to indicate what has been done here and how far we are behind the achievements of other cities in this regard.

I am, in this paper, devoting myself to the city of Sydney alone. It is for the delegates at this conference to determine how nearly the conditions of other Australian cities approximate to those of Sydney. The battle must be fought and won somewhere first, and should the credit of establishing the first Municipal library, upon a broad scale, rest with the mother city of the group the emulation which distinguishes all the colonies will quickly bring competitors in a race so worthy.

So far as I have been able to glean the only library supported by a levy on the rates is in Auckland, New Zealand; but the report which I

obtained, that for 1897, does not give a very clear notion of the work done, the expense incurred or the amount charged to the rates.

In making any comparison with other cities it should be borne in mind that Sydney, estimated by the annual value of its ratable property, stands as the second city of the British Empire.

The statistics given in the last appendix to the report of these proceedings will show a few interesting facts as to the condition of the library movement, how inadequate is the service, inefficient the method and costly the system, directly by subscription and indirectly through the Government, compared with the methods and results elsewhere. But the statistics are so incomplete that no general deductions can be made from them. The figures available have been got only by some official pressure, and they themselves furnish a strong argument in support of the need for this Association.

With regard to these returns and the references therein to the institutions within the city of Sydney proper I have no criticisms to make, for it is acknowledged each is doing good work. No doubt the Sydney School of Arts has received large sums from the Government but on the other hand it is the oldest institution of its kind in the colonies. It was the pioneer of technical education and as far as its funds will allow has a good library well managed and deserves well of the citizens.

There are 21 libraries among the 40 municipalities around Sydney, viz.:—6 Schools of Art, and 15 municipal libraries. Four municipalities enjoy one of each, thus leaving 23 districts without a library among them, the aggregate population of which equals 255,800. While of the balance of the suburban citizens 161,450 have 29,946 volumes between them (that is assuming the libraries which have made no returns possess the average number of books of those which have made returns, viz. 1425) in other words this large number of citizens have actually one book between every five of them.

Now, averaging the number of subscribers in the same way, we find that each library has 223 subscribers or a total of 4683 out of a population of 161,450, or averaging the users of these libraries as before we find that there were 51,114 visits made to the 21 libraries and reading rooms during a year, or an average of 2434 to each library, *i.e.* about 30 persons a week. Nor can this attendance be wondered at when it is shown that the majority of these libraries expended nothing last year on new books, and those which did add to their stocks spent so small a sum that it is clear there could be little attraction for seasoned readers and none at all for those who required enticement. The amount of Government subsidy received by five Schools of Arts last year was £172 12s. 1d., yet only one of these claims to have bought a single new book. The average number of members of the six Schools of Arts was 190 or 1140 between them, and they cost the Government last year nearly 2s. 2d. each. Owing to the incompleteness of the returns of the various libraries it is not possible to draw any safe deductions, but where no returns have been made of the work done it is not unreasonable to conclude that the details are too insignificant to publish. If this be so it argues ill for the work done, and justifies the general assumption of inefficiency and unattractiveness.

Within the city of Sydney there are 23,190 houses of a total average annual rental of £2,081,880. These houses are tenanted by 97,500 persons. The average ratable value per house is less than £90, which at 1d. in the £ equals less than 2s. per annum, or about $\frac{1}{3}$ d. per head per week. A levy of 1d. in the £ on the annual valuation of ratable property

in Sydney would produce £8,674 which is a sum (excluding interest and sinking fund) exceeding that employed to maintain the Free Library of Birmingham with its ten branches. These figures apply to the city of Sydney alone. For the whole metropolitan area of Sydney, including the forty surrounding municipalities, the figures would come out thus.

Houses 89,725 tenanted by 417,250 persons, average annual ratable value £4,614,980. Average per dwelling less than £52. Each dwelling assessed at 1d. in the pound would give, say, 4s. 3d.; and as each house contains nearly five persons the cost to each individual would be under 1s. per annum or ¼d. per week. A library rate of 1d. in the £ on the annual value of this ratable property would give £19,229 per annum. This sum is larger than that required to carry on any of the English examples I have referred to.

Large funds are necessary to carry on a comprehensive system of Free Libraries and newsrooms in a satisfactory and efficient manner. I have shown how the sum of £19,229 could be raised by the imposition of 1d. in the £ on all ratable property of greater Sydney. This sum, however, could only be regarded as maintenance. The large initial cost of starting such a library scheme would have to be otherwise provided for, and considering the benefit to be derived by the people and the large annual saving which would accrue the Government might be induced to make the primary steps easy. By carrying out this scheme the Government would be relieved of the annual expenses of maintaining the Free Public Library (Lending Branch) which probably exceeds £2000 per annum, and the subsidies to local libraries of, say, another £1200, or a total of £3,200. If the Government were relieved of such a large annual expenditure, which, capitalised at 4 per cent., means £80,000, it would not be unreasonable to expect assistance in the enterprise. Moreover, the sum here suggested as the cost of the Lending Branch of the Free Public Library does not include interest on the capital invested in the building or the rent, if rented, which would mean a further saving.

Now, for a nucleus to start with, we may assume that the 15 municipal libraries in existence around Sydney have an average of 1643 volumes each.

Total average volumes in Municipal Libraries	...	...	23,145
" " " Six Schools of Arts	...	...	9,258
" " " Sydney School of Arts	...	...	33,502
" " " Free Public Lending Branch	...	...	26,226

Total 92,131

which is a very respectable nucleus. Let me further assume that the books in the Free Public Lending Branch and in the 15 Municipal Libraries were handed over free there would remain 42,759 to be purchased. Allowing 5s. a volume all round the sum of £10,689 would be required for same. Deduct this from the capital sum of £80,000 there would remain £69,311 for building and furnishing the central and suburban branches. I think it may be assumed that these figures afford ample evidence that the scheme proposed could be safely launched on a scale commensurate with the importance of our city and the needs of its citizens. On the basis of 1d. in the £ the sum of £19,229 would be realised. To show that this sum would be sufficient to maintain, with efficiency, these libraries and newsrooms I refer to the library work of Manchester, with its 15 branches, which only cost £18,857.

It will be perceived in the proposal to purchase the books of the

existing Schools of Art I have endeavoured to meet the case of the vested interests. As the Municipal Libraries have been bought with Government money I take it as only reasonable under such a scheme as here outlined that they should be handed over free of cost. This would practically cover the ground of vested interests as the various booksellers conducting circulating libraries would not, in the long run, be materially affected. The business of a bookseller is to sell books, and while a large free library would not prevent those who wished to possess books from doing so it would create a larger reading public whose wants would have to be supplied, and, therefore, a larger sale of books would be the result, since, broadly, the larger the number of readers the greater the demand for books to satisfy their requirements. Hence it may be held that the bookselling trade would be rather stimulated than otherwise by the scheme here advocated.

The existing Municipalities Act, 31 Victoria, No. 12, Clause 153, confers the power to levy a special rate for a library; and Clauses 141, 142, and 143 authorise Councils to establish Free Libraries.

Clause 142 above referred to provides that a grant from the consolidated revenue may be made for the purchase of books of £100 if 300 persons can avail themselves of it, and £200 if 1000 persons can use it. It is, however, obligatory that the books should remain on the premises, which restricts their use greatly, in fact makes reference libraries of them.

Now, reference libraries are especially students libraries, and while needful and valuable as such do not answer the general needs. Reading is a recreation both elevating and needful, and because it is so a library should be free to all and must permit of the books being taken home. A multiplication of small libraries, one, for the most part, a duplicate of another narrows the choice and robs the would be reader of essential variety and thereby chokes the appetite and the inclination for literature. The present system of satisfying the needs of the reading public is inefficient primarily from the want of sufficient funds and also from the want of a wisely directed central control. The energy and funds employed fail of their object chiefly from these causes. Want of success has not been due to a lack of appreciation by the citizens but to the want of attractiveness in essentials which characterises the suburban libraries, due, as I have already said, to the want of guidance and funds. In advocating the establishment of a large central library with numerous branches, newsrooms, and delivery stations supported by ample funds raised directly from those who would be benefitted, I am urging a scheme which is new only in this colony. In other large towns, as I have shown, the plan has been found not only workable but a proved success, until, in the words of the Chairman of the Liverpool Library, "The Free Public Library is now quite recognised as one of the necessary institutions of municipal life, for there is scarcely a town in England of any importance but possesses its free library, while the cities and towns of first rank have many branch libraries and reading rooms in addition to their central institutions."

In conclusion, then, I take it that, in a matter of such importance, as this Sydney should not be behind her sister cities of the empire. Her population, municipal wealth, educational status, the commercial enterprise of her citizens and their democratic aspirations all require that in this matter she should keep in touch with the rest of the world.

Statement showing basis and results of a Library Rate of 1d. in the £ within Municipalities :—

Municipality.	Population.	Annual Value of Rateable Property.	Product of 1d. in the £.	Cost per Head per annum.
				Pence.
Sydney	97,500	£2,081,880	£8,674	21 $\frac{1}{4}$
Alexandria	8,100	50,100	209	6
Annandale	7,250	48,690	203	6 $\frac{3}{4}$
Ashfield	12,550	120,060	500	9
Balmain	28,000	188,740	786	7
Botany	2,450	18,020	75	7 $\frac{1}{2}$
Botany North	3,150	15,800	66	5
Burwood	6,300	75,580	315	12
Camperdown	7,000	40,260	168	5 $\frac{3}{4}$
Canterbury	3,500	20,200	84	5 $\frac{3}{4}$
Concord	2,300	20,200	84	8 $\frac{3}{4}$
Darlington	3,400	25,340	106	7 $\frac{1}{2}$
Drummoyne	2,100	17,600	73	8
Enfield	2,350	14,800	62	6
Ersleville	5,400	30,420	127	5 $\frac{1}{2}$
Five Dock	1,400	9,090	38	7
Glebe	16,750	145,590	607	8 $\frac{1}{2}$
Hunter's Hill	4,000	25,850	108	6 $\frac{1}{2}$
Hurstville	5,450	26,930	112	5
Kogarah	3,300	19,600	82	6
Lane Cove	1,300	10,340	43	8
Leichhardt	14,700	83,380	347	6
Manly	3,550	38,000	108	7 $\frac{1}{4}$
Marrickville	17,000	126,400	527	7 $\frac{1}{4}$
Marsfield	700	4,340	18	6
Mosman	3,100	33,130	138	10 $\frac{1}{4}$
Newtown	20,000	159,500	665	13 $\frac{1}{4}$
North Sydney	19,200	197,260	822	10
Paddington	18,500	168,430	702	9
Petersham	13,400	119,510	498	9
Randwick	7,650	79,010	329	10 $\frac{1}{4}$
Redfern	23,500	166,130	692	7
Rockdale	6,600	42,220	176	6 $\frac{1}{4}$
Ryde	2,200	19,810	83	9
St. Peters	5,500	27,610	115	5
Strathfield	2,700	35,370	147	13 $\frac{1}{2}$
Vauluse	1,000	6,830	28	6 $\frac{3}{4}$
Waterloo	8,700	54,650	228	6 $\frac{1}{4}$
Waverley	10,500	97,490	406	9 $\frac{1}{4}$
Willoughby	4,200	27,810	116	6 $\frac{1}{4}$
Woollahra	11,000	123,010	512	11
	417,250	£4,614,980	£19,229	

The values here quoted refer only to improved lands with buildings thereon. The rate levied on 5 per cent. of the capital value of unimproved lands would produce £1685 per annum additional, which may be regarded as a set off on unpaid rates.

THE DIFFICULTIES OF COUNTRY SCHOOLS OF ARTS.

BY A. W. JOSE, SECRETARY TO UNIVERSITY EXTENSION BOARD, SYDNEY.

I should like to begin by pointing out that I should much have preferred to hear this subject dealt with by someone who belonged to a country School of Arts, and had practical experience of its working. I was myself for some years on the committee of the Bathurst School of Arts; but that is one of the largest and best outside Sydney, and is worked under conditions very different from those of the smaller institutions with which this paper will deal. However, as no one with the requisite qualifications came forward, I have been asked to bring this subject on for discussion—chiefly, I presume, because I am constantly travelling about the country and coming into contact with those who manage the School of Arts, or Literary Institute, or whatever it may be called, in every centre that I visit. Most of what I shall say, indeed, represents not my own views merely, but those of committee men in one or another country town.

We might begin with the School of Arts that has no difficulties. There is only one variety, to my knowledge, and it grows up after this fashion: Some gentlemen in a small town feel the need of a club at which they can play cards or billiards without having to go to a public house. So they hire a room, and put as many local newspapers as they can get free on a small table at one end of it, and induce the town council to hand over to them a number of books called the "Free Library," which have hitherto been lying in the dust on a shelf in the town clerk's office: then they call themselves a Mechanics' Institute and apply for a Government subsidy. If instead of hiring a room they build one, the Government gives them pound for pound, so that is probably the cheaper way in the end. Whichever happens, the papers and the books take up perhaps one end of the room—and the rest of it is devoted to the founders' main object, be it cards or billiards. There are no difficulties: you can always get plenty of subscribers to a billiard table, and the Government gives 10/- in the £ on each subscription, so funds are plentiful, and everybody is happy.

I do not say that there are many such institutions in the colony; but they exist, and there is nothing to check them. Somebody earlier in the proceedings talked of Governments carefully inspecting the accounts, and of all the information that a School of Arts secretary has to give each year. As a matter of fact, the inspection is simply directed towards making sure that subsidies are only granted on *bona-fide* subscriptions: no one tries to find out why the members subscribe, or what the subsidy is spent on. And the information secretaries are supposed to give is very frequently not given; yet the subsidy is granted all the same. Out of 267 institutions named in the last Statistical Register 131 give no information as to how much they spent on books, etc., during 1897; of these 88 received subsidies. Some of the information that is given is interesting. One School of Arts spent nothing on books last year, though it got nearly £23 of subsidy; since its beginning it has received £137 from Government, and has spent in books a little over £45. Another,

out of a £7 subsidy, spent eighteenpence—but this one certainly borrowed books from the Public Library. Another out of £97 spent £15: while Bathurst, with a slightly smaller subsidy, spent £196. But I have given quite enough statistics to prove that Government “inspection” takes no account of where the money goes.

And it is this that underlies the difficulties of the real Schools of Arts. For they have been started by men who were anxious to set up in their little country town a reading centre, a room where the best journals could be consulted, where the best books could be borrowed, where young fellows could be trained to think and utter their thoughts in debate. Now the average country town contains reading men to the extent of about twelve per thousand; and the twelve must somehow interest the thousand, or they will not have enough funds for their work. At first, probably funds were forthcoming; it was creditable to the place to have a School of Arts, and people subscribed who would not use it. After a year or so the novelty wore off, and soon the book-buying fund fell low: entertainments, concerts, and bazaars were resorted to to replenish the institute’s exchequer. But money raised in that way gets no subsidy: £1 from a bazaar is but £1, £1 from a subscriber means 30s in the treasury—for on subscriptions there is the Government subsidy. How is the committee to get more subscribers? Just there comes in the temptation. It is an admirable thing to provide recreation for young men: it is a noble thing to keep them out of the public house. By having a billiard table in the School of Arts you will do both, *and* increase your subscriptions (and subsidy)—and there will be ever so much more money to spend on books. That is a series of arguments which I have heard over and over again. They have generally proved successful, and for a time everything has gone on strictly as *per* programme. But it is your subscribers who elect your committee. If the subscribers join for games and not for reading, they will soon elect committee-men who encourage the games at the expense of the reading. And I have several times watched the slow but certain change by which the School of Arts under such influences becomes a sports club with a library attached to its tail. I know one institution that had a fine reading room, full of good journals and magazines from all the world over—spacious, airy, well-lighted, the resort of a good many young men every evening. The room is as spacious as before, and better filled with young men than ever, for it has become the billiard-room; as for the papers, what are left of them are piled higgledy-piggledy in two tiny rooms—quite big enough, though, for the number who use them to-day.

I am not, remember, attacking billiards: I take it simply as the game most usually introduced nowadays into Schools of Arts, and the one which usurps most room from the legitimate objects of the institutions. My point is that, however admirable and noble these games are, it is not for them that Government should pay money away yearly out of the Education vote. Yet under the present system they are not only allowed, but almost made necessary to the small country Schools of Arts; for while subsidy is paid in proportion to subscriptions, you cannot blame the local committees for attracting subscribers on every possible excuse. Now this could all be altered by a change in the system of subsidizing—a change almost exactly parallel to that made a short time ago with regard to agricultural societies. There the amount of subsidy granted depends largely, if not wholly, on the amount spent by each society in providing prizes of the right sort. Why not imitate this in the matter of Schools

of Arts, and make the amount of the subsidy depend on the amount spent by each institution on educational work? The phrase should be given a wide enough meaning to include not only books and journals and magazines, but all expense connected with lectures, and perhaps debating societies; and the proportion should be such that good Schools of Arts may get not a penny less than they do now. In this way you would not prevent any committee from encouraging games as well as reading, if it wanted to; but you would ensure that public money had been spent for the purpose for which it is voted, and you would use it so as to encourage the purchase of the best books and the delivery of the best lectures. When a committee nowadays discusses the lecture question, it has to face the fact that anything beyond the merest popular magic-lantern discourse will probably be a dead loss to the institution. Under the new system that loss would be much lessened, and in a great many cases cancelled altogether: and the School of Arts would become what it should be, the intellectual centre of its town.

I repeat (for it is important to understand this) there would be no compulsion of any kind: if members preferred to spend their money on games they could do so as much as they liked. Only, money voted by Parliament for educational purposes would be used for educational purposes; and the School of Arts that was trying to do its duty in a small country town would be able to go on doing its duty without having to resort to outside attractions.

I must refer, before I sit down, to another difficulty which has already been mentioned here; I mean the difficulty which besets committees in remote centres who are trying to order new books and want to get good ones. When a committee has less than £30 a year to spend on books (and that is the fate of 119 out of 136 institutions that gave information in 1897), it is as important as it now is impossible to make sure that good value is got for the money. I think this difficulty might be met by the issue—from the Public Library, or in connection with this Association—of a monthly or quarterly book list, giving the names of the best books of all kinds published during the last month or quarter, and a very short sketch of each. The sketch need only be long enough to show what kind of book each was, and whether it was good of its kind; and I believe the expense involved would be extremely small.

POETRY AND PUBLIC LIBRARIES,
OR THE EFFICACY OF POETRY AS AN EDUCATOR,
AND ITS NEGLECT.

BY W. H. C. DARVALL.

" 'Tis Education forms the common mind;
Just as the twig is bent, the Tree 's inclined."

SO SAYS POPE.

The object—in fact the very *raison d'être*—of libraries is, I take it, to afford a means of extending the results of experiences, whether it be for the purposes of information, encouragement, warning, or amusement.

Dyer, in one of his works, has, to my mind, given a very happy definition of the inherent properties of libraries, where he has left it on record that, in his opinion, "Libraries are wardrobes for literature—whence men properly informed might bring forth something for ornament, much for curiosity, and more for use," a terse but comprehensive indication of the benefits to be derived from such institutions, which I think that any student might, with no small advantage to himself, analyse with careful consideration.

During my lengthened connection—in some way or other—with Public Libraries (dating from the time when "Mechanics' Institutes" contained the only—and very meagre—semi-public libraries of the day)—I have often experienced a feeling of depression when observing the scant attention given to—and the want of appreciation of—these "founts of knowledge" on the part of the general public, by the greater portion of whom they seemed to be looked upon either as places to which their boys could be sent to amuse themselves with "Tales of Adventure" when they got to be troublesome at home, or whence the young ladies of the household could obtain novels wherewith to alleviate that unwholesome and unhappy feeling so aptly and deprecatingly described by the Poet Cowper when he reminds us that

"Absence of occupation is not rest,
A mind quite vacant is a mind distress'd."

But I have felt somewhat relieved—and inclined to acknowledge that there was a silver lining to even this dark cloud—when I have, from time to time, heard a public speaker refer to one of these Mechanics' Institutes of the olden days as the place where he (in his impecunious youth) first obtained his knowledge of the world, and was led to think for himself at a time when he could not have afforded to purchase the books which he there had access to as means of information and instruction. I have even heard statements to this effect gratefully made by a gentleman intimately connected with "the powers that be" in this colony,* and with whom I have the pleasure to be associated in connection with the libraries which I represent to-day, and who, by the knowledge so obtained in his youth from such sources, has risen to a self-

*N.S.W.

made position in the world, in which he is now enabled in this, his day and generation, to utilise a well-earned influence in promoting the extension of similar institutions as well as benefiting his fellow men and women in other directions.†

But, however pleased we may be to look on this gratifying side of the picture, we cannot shut our eyes to the fact that there is a great apathy displayed—both as to the support and the actual using—of our Free Public Libraries.

Why is this? is the question that from time to time presents itself to my mind with perplexing reiteration; and the idea sometimes occurs to me whether the answer may not be found in the fact that they are “free.”

This idea or query is strengthened when one reflects upon the avidity with which the contents of Sunday-school—and indeed any other school—libraries are had recourse to (not only by the young folks but by their parents), the access to which institutions can only be obtained by the payment of a small fee, be it merely a penny a week or sixpence a quarter.

There are doubtless more reasons than one which will present themselves to your minds to account for the possible influence amongst the various classes of society of the “fact” above referred to (using the term “society” in its most extended meaning, not in its mere social limitation); and, though time will not permit of their consideration here, it might not be amiss if the idea which I have now merely touched upon were, amongst others, to receive some consideration at the hands of the committees or boards having the management of Free Public Libraries.

But, if Public Libraries themselves receive but scant recognition on the part of an apathetic public, what shall we say to the positive neglect—and in some cases jeering treatment—of an *important section* of their contents on the part of the intelligent persons who on the one hand have the control, or, on the other hand the use of, the same?

I am sadly afraid that there are many (otherwise fairminded) men who would deny that “poetry” came within the definition of “important section” of a library, and some who, if a feeling of shame did not prevent, would even admit that they did “not see the use” of having poetry on the library shelves at all. As a humorous instance of the existence of some such feeling as this—on the part of the providers of mental pabulum for the public—the writer of this paper would mention that, when on the committee of management of a certain Public Library for a period extending over some years, *never* was the procuring of a volume of poems for its shelves suggested by anyone but himself, and his suggestion in that direction was generally received with a complaisant good humoured (but evasive) remark in a sort of tolerating tone, “Oh, here’s our friend here wants a poetry-book purchased, well, we’d better go through the list of these others first,” with the pleasing (?) result that by the time that a sufficiency of “yellow backs” and other volumes had been selected, there were no funds left for the purchase of poetry *that* month, and therefore there was no use in considering the advisability or otherwise of procuring the suggested work.

This, I am informed, on comparing notes with members of similar committees, is by no means an uncommon experience.

Now, should this be so? And why is this thus?

†Hugh R. Reid, Esq.

I emphatically answer the former query in the negative (for reasons more properly appearing later on), and, as to the latter, I unhesitatingly affirm that the reason for such a state of things is the total absence on the part of the holders of such opinions as I have referred to, of any knowledge of the subject, and a *supercilious disinclination to give it the slightest consideration*, as being in *their* opinion, a matter "of no importance to any but a few sentimentalists."

Such is my experience, and I am afraid that of many of you likewise.

The question arises, therefore, "Is poetry in any degree an educator?" And if so, is it sufficiently efficacious *as such* to render its inclusion in our Public Libraries and its public and social teaching and promulgation of any importance—or of any advantage even—to the general community? And, if it is of use in these directions, how is the public's disregard of it to be accounted for? and overcome?

The efficacy of poetry as an educator would, I think, never be underrated for one moment by any observant man or woman who would take the trouble to give the subject any really thoughtful consideration with the earnest desire of arriving at a logical and truthful result.

The first conclusion which would be arrived at by such an enquirer might, I think, be summed up in the words of the Latin poet:

"Emollit mores, nec sinit esse feros."

And if there were found to be even no grander result than the thus making the *fortiter in re* of our natures to some extent subservient to the *suaviter in modo* which *should* regulate our everyday intercourse with fellow men, I consider that that alone would be very satisfactory proof of the *efficacy* of poetry as an educator—and, indeed, as an educator of the highest order and noblest aim.

And that poetry *has* that *wholesome* tendency, and is calculated to effect much *real* good, could be easily shown by innumerable quotations, with which, however, it would be out of place to lengthen a paper of this nature on an occasion like the present; one only, therefore, must suffice.

Listen to the words of our friend Kingsley, whose constant desire was to benefit his species, and who to that end always attuned his lyre and consecrated his heaven-born talents:—

"Be good, sweet maid, and let who will be *clever*;
Do noble things, *not dream* them all day long;
And so make life, death, and the vast for ever
One grand sweet song."

Here, within the compass of four short lines of exquisite poetry, do we find an entire sermon from text to application, breathing a spirit of purity and grace, but having this advantage over a pulpit enunciation that it is likely to meet the eye (and it is to be hoped touch the heart) of many a one who would perhaps not give heed to an ordinary clerical discourse or disquisition. Could language be used more appropriate to the theme, or more attractively persuasive in tone and rhythm?

In face of this and such like verses, what would be the reply of any unprejudiced person to an enquiry as to the likelihood of poetry being an efficient educator?

Educator! Why is not poetry called into requisition whenever our public orators—either in the Legislature or the Pulpit—desire to give special point to an argument? Or, whenever enthusiasm has to be

evoked—in the press or from the platform—in support or furtherance of our patriotism or any other noble cause?

What was it that, in the forties, gave to the world a Dibdin—the poet of the class I more especially represent to-day—but a desire to foster and promote the love of one's country, and to imbue the public mind with a better knowledge—and a more correct estimate—of the character of our Naval Defenders? An education which I am sure we are *all* glad to know has been ever since advancing with giant strides, not only to the advantage of our country, but, in a most remarkable degree, to that of our seamen themselves.

And we can with pride point to England's Henry Newbolt as a patriotic historian poet of the present day, who in his recently published little work "Admirals All," has fired the souls of all true Britons by his effective reminders of the whilom noble deeds of our country's naval heroes.

And coming nearer home—for I suppose that we all have what Shakespeare calls "a smack of predilection for home-brewed excellence," I would ask Was not the spirit of Poesy educatively evoked as lately as the occasions of our Commonwealth controversy last June, and the breaking out of the recent Spanish-American war? When could anything be more to the point, or more patriotic, than the poetical effusions of your own local* poets, or those stirring contributions of Victoria's newly-found poet, William Carrington?

And if at any time we wish to effectively adduce evidence of the beauties or advantages of New South Wales—of Victoria—of Queensland—or New Zealand, who are our witnesses? Whom do we call upon for a testimony but a Kendall, a Gordon, a Brunton Stephens, or a Bracken? And for truly good, chaste, God-loving and home-loving, poetry (oftentimes effectively tinged with quaintly appropriate humour), can anything surpass in sterling excellence the contributions of your own fellow colonist, Mrs. E. M. Barton, of Gladesville? whose beautiful verses I am glad to see are sometimes copied into the Victorian papers, showing that the sister colony is not slow to appreciate real worth outside the mere limits of her own boundaries.

Our poets in these Australian colonies will also doubtless prove as efficient historians as their predecessors in the old country in the days of yore, especially if we accept Paley's definition of history as being "a register of the successes and disappointments, the vices, the follies, and the quarrels of those who engage in contention for power." [And in this respect, whilst pointing to "Oriël" and his humorous and sometimes caustic confrères in this our Southern Hemisphere, I cannot refrain from paying a passing tribute, by way of parenthesis, to those old-time worthies of the mother country, Sir Walter Scott and George Crabbe, the latter of whom I esteem as as admirable a delineator, —in poetry—of the times and characters of his day as Charles Dickens was in prose, and each in a manner calculated to arrest attention and invite enquiry.]

And as a truthful historical record and faithful delineation of Australian bush life we can with confidence refer posterity to your own Barty Paterson,† whose "The Man from Snowy River" is a specimen of accurate word painting not to be excelled.

*N.S.W. †A. B. Paterson, better known under his *nom de plume* of "Banjo."

If, then, Poetry be an efficient Educator, why is it so neglected?

To my mind the disregard of—if not positive dislike to—poetry on the part of so many (especially of the rising generation) is traceable—

Firstly—To a want on the part of the young in these colonies of an adequate appreciation of the power of language whether for the intelligent transmission of intellectual ideas or for the solace of our hours of ease or of affliction, their minds being apparently totally impervious to the feeling voiced by Lamb that “the nearer anything comes to mental joy the purer and choicer it is,” and equally oblivious of the truth proclaimed by that old and much neglected poet Melmoth, that

“Of the various tasks mankind employ
’Tis sure the hardest—leisure to enjoy.”

And secondly—To the apathy and (in many cases) indolence which leads them to “take things as they find them,” and to avoid the trouble of investigating for themselves the possibility of generally received opinions being sometimes inconclusive or even erroneous, for although as Bishop Mant has reminded us, “Correct opinions well established on any subject are the best preservative against the seductions of error,” that is not to say that (however young—or, indeed, however old—we may be, for we are never too old to learn) we are to stifle the spirit of enquiry within us, which, if encouraged, might eventually not only lead to the amelioration of our own circumstances and facilitate our own progress in life, but even tend to the advancement of the interests of science, or, in other ways, those of the world at large.

Such apathetic persons—although they may, perhaps, as a matter of fashion, sometimes open their Shakespeare, and even be able, with glib tongue, to give the trite quotation, “There is a tide in the affairs of men which—taken at the flood—leads on to fortune,” do very rarely, I am afraid, pay any heed to the reverse of that picture portrayed in the lines immediately following that dictum, namely:—

“Omitted, all the voyage of their life
Is bound in shallows and in miseries:
And we must take the current when it serves,
Or lose our ventures.”

What an education is embraced in those few lines; as also those of Goethe, “Nature knows no pause in progress and development, and attaches her curse to all inaction;” or, as Franklin puts it—carrying the idea beyond the evil of mere stagnation—“Troubles spring from idleness, and grievous toils from needless ease.”

Well then, if it be conceded that the deductions to be arrived at from the foregoing arguments are correct, namely, that either to Ignorance or Apathy can be traced the dislike to—or it may be only the disregard of—poetry, *then* it behoves us all, especially those who are connected with Public Libraries, if we desire to abolish in the coming generation that crass ignorance, and to overcome—and substitute an active intelligence for—an apathy so subversive of all good, it behoves us, I say, to go a step further and seek for the cause of, or a reason for, the existence of such a deplorable state of things as we admit, and then, perhaps, some of us may be able to suggest a feasible remedy.

The “root of the evil” to my mind is to be found in the *fact* that children are not taught to read *properly*; you will observe that I emphasize the adverb, for every child is, I presume, *supposed* to be taught to read—if nothing else, now that in the establishment of

"State schools" that acme of general education has been attained thus formerly so earnestly invoked by Wordsworth :

" O for the coming of that glorious time,
When—prizing knowledge as her noblest wealth
And best protection—this Imperial Realm,
While she exacts allegiance, *shall admit*
An obligation on her part to teach
Them who are born to serve her and obey ;
Binding herself by statute to secure,
For *all* the children whom her soil maintains,
The rudiments of letters, and inform
The mind with moral and religious truth,
Both understood and practised—so that none
However destitute, be left to droop,
By timely culture unsustained ; or run
Into a wild disorder ; or be forced
To drudge through a weary life without the help
Of intellectual implements and tools."

Who shall say that this inspired invocation of the poet may not have proved the *very germ* from whence arose the now popularised scheme of general education by means of "State schools" so much in vogue both in the old country and in these her colonies ?

But we cannot shut our eyes to the indisputable fact that one of the drawbacks of this well-intentioned scheme is *not only* that the children who attend these large public schools *are not*—but that they *cannot be*—there taught to read *properly* on account of the large dimensions of the classes and the short space of time allotted to any one subject.

How, for instance, is it possible in a Reading class of from 20 to 40 scholars—with perhaps merely some 20 minutes at the teacher's disposal—for that teacher (even if capable, which very many teachers are not) to point out errors in individuals, such as absence of—or incorrectness in—*expression*, and to explain how the fault might be remedied ?

Impossible ; more especially in those schools where members of a class are required to read all together ! An absurd plan upon the face of it.

And now we come to the crux of the whole question.

If a boy or girl, man or woman, cannot, when reading, do so *with expression*, how is it possible for them to bring out—or even grasp with intelligence—an author's meaning ? And if this be so in the case of mere prose, it must apply in a tenfold degree to poetry. And I contend that under such circumstances it is morally impossible for anyone to *like* poetry, for, if they cannot read it as with an intuition of the author's idea and aim, they cannot possibly either understand it or take any pleasure therein.

Bacon has said that "Poesy serveth and conferreth to magnanimity, to morality, and delectation."

A. St. John goes further, and endeavours to instil into our hearts and minds that "the very source of true poetry is love—a divine glow and vision conscious of the radiant glories belonging to all surrounding things in God's creation."

The Roman's dictum was "Poeta nascitur non fit," and the same idea is more fully and beautifully expressed by Bailey, who claims that

"Poetry is itself a thing of God ;
He made his prophets Poets, and the more
We feel of Poesy do we become
Like God in love and power."

And, in deploring an ignorance on the part of the rising generation of "the art of reading with propriety," I find that I am in very good company, for not so very long since I was exceedingly pleased to read in the columns of one of our principal daily papers (although grieved that there was occasion for it) the enunciation by one of our esteemed bishops* (during the deliverance of an address to "The Anglican Lay Readers' Association" of his diocese) the following outspoken opinion pertinent to the subject:—

His Lordship is thus reported†:—"The question of reading properly was one that could not be exaggerated by the lay reader or the clergyman. He was much surprised during the examination at Trinity Church to hear the *attempts* at reading by some candidates for Holy Orders. It was *so* bad that some of the judges sighed in despair on reference being made to it. It certainly was not right that any congregation should be compelled to listen to such bad reading, and in some cases the candidates should not have been admitted."

Fancy one of these young aspirants to pulpit fame endeavouring to "point a moral or adorn a tale" (with which he might be illustrating the subject of his discourse) by an apt quotation from one of the poets! Could he do it? or even give out *intelligently* the hymns for the day? when he *could not read properly* the ordinary church service which he must know almost by heart. But what can be expected when, nowadays, in so many of our so-called places of worship "the *reading*," even of the Scripture "Lessons," has become displaced by dreary *monotoning*? It is, however, a healthy sign when we find one of the highest ecclesiastical dignitaries of the day putting his finger on the blot and it is to be hoped that his youthful hearers and readers will give heed; to his salutary admonition.

Some persons may possibly say "It is all very well to find fault, but how is the existing state of things (to which you object) to be remedied?"

Well, of course, I have my idea on the subject; and, with the desire that its ventilation may lead to the advancement of still better panaceas on the part of some of my colleagues in this present conference, I have no hesitation in placing it before you, with, however, an expression of hope that its very simplicity may not cause it to be slightly set aside without consideration, *unless* some *better* remedy—and as easy of adoption—can be propounded.

My suggestion has this to recommend it: that, not only is it *practical*, but that, for years past, it has, within the limited sphere of my own influence, been successful beyond my expectations.

It is—That heads of families—school boards—church vestries or guardians, teachers (and friends) of public *and* private schools—mutual improvement societies—and lastly (but not least in importance) *the controlling authorities of Public Libraries—throughout our colonies*, should, each and all, be invited to offer annually, or at other stated periods (so fixed as not to clash with each other), suitable prizes of books—including some of poetry—for (1.) "The most intelligent Reading at sight," and for (2.) "The most intelligently delivered Poetical Recitation;" to be given or rendered by young people within various specified ages under 21, and subject to other details, such as limitation of district, etc., as may seem desirable.

*The Bishop of Melbourne.

†Melbourne *Argus*, 6th October, 1897.

I have personally known many pleasurable and profitable results from even "family competitions" of this nature; and one of the most talented of our public singers of to-day* attributes her present success to the energy and perseverance which she developed at the time when she carried off the prizes at the "annual competitions" of the "Victorian Mutual Improvement Societies Union," which by the bye also brought to the fore the poet Edward S. Smithurst (now I believe in this colony),† but that very useful society has, I am sorry to say, since died out with the notable exception of its Bailarat off-shoot.

The importance on many grounds of "family" competitions cannot be over-estimated, and parents who have not hitherto given the subject a thought would be astonished at the pleasure to be obtained were they to initiate a system of prize-giving amongst their young "folks at home," and it is impossible to foresee what great results might be the outcome in their children's future. Just as in commercial life "competition is the soul of business," so, I would say is emulation, founded on a laudable ambition, the mainspring of progress, whether it be spiritual or merely intellectual.

And as, in my humble opinion, Public Libraries—or rather their managers—should always take a foremost place in any scheme or endeavour to educate the people up to such a standard as would enable them to, not only to make use of, but *really enjoy*, the mental pabulum and luxuries provided for them in such institutions, I trust that the suggestions which I have now thrown out may lead some at least of the Library authorities here to-day to seriously consider "the efficacy of poetry as an educator," and whether it might not be worth while to adopt some such scheme as I have mooted, (or it may be some better plan), for instilling into the public mind a desire to more frequently make use of the various poetical works on the library shelves, for I am persuaded that not only would great good accrue to their fellow men and women from the adoption of such a course, but that as a further happy result they themselves would thenceforward "possess their minds in peace," for, as Bishop Porteus reminds us, "The joy resulting from the diffusion of blessings to all around us is the purest and sublimest that can ever enter the human mind, and can be conceived only by those who have experienced it."

And as a further incentive to library managers to be up and doing, and not let some one else step in and snatch the glory of initiating a good work, I would remind them of that trite saying ascribed to Basil, "A good deed is never lost," and that—as F. B. Wells so aptly put it,

"He who hopes to be *remembered*,
Must with courage, calm, serene,
Live a noble life of *action* :
Only *live* fish swim up stream."

*Miss Nellie M'Lellan.

†N.S.W.

THE BOOK-TRADE IN AUSTRALIA SINCE 1861.

 BY ADAM G. MELVILLE, MELBOURNE.

This paper is the continuation of one read before the International Library Conference, at Melbourne, in April, 1896, wherein the history of the Book-trade in Australia was traced from its earliest beginnings down to the year 1860, showing the rise and growth of the trade, first in Sydney and later on in Melbourne and Adelaide. The names of the prominent pioneer booksellers were mentioned, together with some notice of the work they did. This present paper will not concern itself with the personnel of the book-trade since 1861, interesting though that branch of the subject be, but will seek rather to present it as the vehicle for the distribution of books, more especially the books and periodical publications of the day, in those establishments of which Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide, and the other capitals and centres of population in Australia have cause to be proud. The history of the book-trade must necessarily to a large extent concern itself with the current literature of the day, which forms such a very large portion of what is called its turnover in any year.

In the book world the year 1860 has always appeared to me to mark the end of a period of comparative quiet, and the year 1861 to mark the beginning of a new order of things wherein vigorous enterprise and increasing literary output were to be distinguishing features. These influences have been, and continue to be, English in their sources for the most part, though at the same time Australian influences have been and are at work, and have had due sway amongst us—yet it may be reiterated here that the book-trade in Australia to-day exists for the most part by the sale of English books and periodicals. Perhaps the two influences which have affected the book-trade more potently than any others since 1861 to the present day have been the steady developments of the novel and of periodical literature, and these influences have been aided and made more potential by the rapidity and regularity of communication between England and Australia. These influences have affected the whole of Australia, and, therefore, it follows that what holds good in Sydney and Melbourne and Adelaide does so also in Brisbane, Hobart, Rockhampton, Perth, Goulburn, Bourke, Ballarat, Bendigo, or any other centre of population in the Island Continent. A paper of this kind should endeavour to be as descriptive and discursive as possible, and avoid the appearance even of being a catalogue or list of publications. Therefore in treating the subject I think it better to confine my attention to general literature, that is, to publications read by the general public, than to occupy the space at my disposal with the consideration of those of a special nature issued for the expert and the student.

Side by side with the development of the novel and of periodical literature, indeed as part of the movement, has grown a class of authors who may be called professional because they devote their time and earn their daily bread by means of their published writings, whether as novels or magazine articles, and which serve as literary food to a large and growing public. To say that professional novelists did not exist before 1861 would not be strictly accurate, but it would be, perhaps, accurate to say that they did not exist as a class or guild. Before 1861, Scott, Dickens, Thackeray, Bulwer-Lytton, Harrison Ainsworth, and others,

wrote and lived more or less upon the proceeds of their writings, but it may be said that they were more individual than representative. Miss Braddon and Mrs. Henry Wood had begun, in 1861, that steady regular output of fiction which has continued to this present, for though Mrs. Wood has been in her grave these years the posthumous fiction published in her name almost warrants the use of the present tense in her case. These two writers, together with Mrs. Oliphant, Wilkie Collins, Dinah Mulock, George Eliot, Henry Kingsley, Charles Reade, Whyte-Melville, Anthony Trollope, Edmund Yates, Charlotte M. Yonge, were all writing fiction in 1861, and somewhat later on in the decade they were joined by Walter Besant (Besant and Rice), William Black, Mrs. Alexander, Amelia B. Edwards, B. L. Farjeon, Charles Gibbon, George Macdonald, Florence Marryat, Mrs. Riddell, Mrs. Lynn Linton, and F. W. Robinson, who may be regarded as the forerunners and the representatives in those years of a class of authors who have made imaginative writing their profession. These writers have done good work, an intelligent and appreciative public looked forward to new works from their pens with lively anticipation, and on the whole there were few disappointments. Indeed, booksellers have reason to be grateful to those whose books were bread and butter lines, as the phrase goes, and some of them remain such to this day. How do they compare from the book-trade point of view with their successors of to-day who have taken their places? Very favourably, I think. To-day there is more fiction read and the turnover is greater; then books were dearer, profits were larger, and the baneful discount system was unknown. Who are the novelists of to-day whom we would compare with those who made the sixties and seventies famous. They would be Rudyard Kipling, F. Marion Crawford, Anthony Hope, J. M. Barrie, Conan Doyle, Stanley Weyman, Thomas Hardy, Seton Merriman, S. R. Crockett, James Lane Allen, Guy Boothby, Gertrude Atherton, Alan St. Aubyn, F. F. Montessor, W. E. Norris, Baring-Gould, Frankfort Moore, Zangwill, Rolf Boldrewood, Henry James, Gilbert Parker, Max Pemberton, Edna Lyall, F. A. Steel, Hall Caine, W. Clark Russell, and R. D. Blackmore. When we come to the consideration of the development of periodical literature since 1860, we are struck by the growth of the monthly magazine, both in regard to mass, variety, and comprehensiveness. In the year 1860 a bookseller, in Sydney or Melbourne, of standing, would have subscribers for, and a good lending library would have upon its tables for the use of its customers, the following magazines and reviews, namely:—*Blackwood*, *Fraser*, *Macmillan's*, *St. James*, *Cornhill*, *Gentleman's*, *Bentley's*, *London Society*, *Temple Bar*, *Dublin University*, *Chambers'*, *All the Year Round*, *Once a Week*, *Revue des deux Mondes*, *Victoria*, *Colburn's New Monthly*, *the Quarterly*, *Edinburgh*, *Westminster*, *British Quarterly*, *Dublin Review*, *North British*, and *National Review*, in all some couple of dozen periodicals.

Some of these titles may appear strange to the ears of readers of to-day. They have paid the debt of nature after life's fitful fever, yet they were well known in their day. To-day a bookseller or librarian of the same standing would show a much extended list, a list to be met with not only in Sydney and Melbourne, but also in Adelaide, Brisbane, Perth, Hobart, Goulburn, Ballarat, Deniliquin, Launceston, in fact in every large centre of population in Australia. Putting aside the cheaper and more ephemeral issues we would find *The*

Nineteenth Century, *Contemporary*, *Fortnightly*, *Quarterly*, *Edinburgh*, *Forum*, *Blackwood*, *Cornhill*, *Appleton's Science*, *Cosmopolis*, *Revue des deux Mondes*, *Asiatic*, *Temple Bar*, *Gentleman's*, *Argosy*, *Arena*, *Atlantic*, *Harper's*, *Scribner's*, *Century*, *Badminton*, *Belgravia*, *Bookman*, *Cassell's*, *Chambers'*, *Chapman*, *Deutsche Rundschau*, *English Illustrated*, *Good Words*, *Knowledge*, *Lady's Realm*, *Idler*, *London Society*, *Longman's*, *Le Monde Moderne*, *National Review*, *Ludgate*, *Lippincott*, *Munsey's*, *Macmillan's*, *Nature*, *Strand*, *Temple*, *Windsor*, *Woman at Home*, *Pearson's*, *Cosmopolitan*, *Dublin Review*, *Westminster*, *United Service*, *Pall Mall*, *Literary World*, *Household Words*, *Gartenlaube*, *Economic Journal*; and the literary weeklies—the *Spectator*, *Saturday*, *Academy*, *Athenæum*, and *Literature*, or some five dozen periodicals of high standing and literary excellence.

It is somewhat significant that those periodicals of a high literary order such as the *Quarterly*, the *Edinburgh*, the *Nineteenth Century*, *Fortnightly*, *Blackwood's*, *Contemporary*, and others, retain their original published prices; and it would, moreover, appear that it is impossible to carry on a first-class monthly magazine whose writers are at all representative at a less published price than one shilling, if I judge accurately the histories of the *Cornhill*, the *Argosy*, and others which have returned to their original prices.

But in the book-trade there is more matter for consideration than fiction and periodical literature. A good book business, besides, will be distinguished by what it does in the other departments of literature, such as History, Biography, Travel, Essays, and Poetry, and would show a record of the books in demand in the general current literature of the day as the years went on. There are waxing and waning of books in their courses, there are death and survival, more apparent in books than in periodicals—though here, too, there is disappearance into the limbo of the forgotten. Is this an application of the law of the survival of the fittest? But at all events it may be worth while to notice, as shortly as possible, some of the books which have made a stir in their time from 1860 to as near to-day as possible. Fiction disappears sooner into neglect than any other class—that is, its day is shorter—and next in order comes Travel. History, Biography, Essays all live longer and die bravely. The best of each survive. Indifferent poetry has no life to speak of, whilst the best appears to be imperishable. And yet at the time of publication, and whilst the crucible of selection is at work, it is not easy to say which book will survive, and which will not. And this is one of the main reasons why a bookseller in Australia, so far removed from the publishing centres, has to be so careful in replenishing his stock. In the year 1861 the world was stirred by the publication of "Essays and Reviews," and for years booksellers had occasion to bless this volume, sales were so large. To-day it is a dead book, whilst J. Hain Friswell's collection of essays "The Gentle Life," published about the same time, is alive. Not that the latter ever stirred the public mind as the other did, but it is considered good stock to-day. Is it the style of writing which gives the living spirit to a book? Consider the hundreds of books of travel which have appeared since 1861, which have run their course, and then think of two published years before which are in regular demand everywhere—Kinglake's "Rothens," and Lord Dufferin's "Letters from High Latitudes." Many books have appeared on the nearer East since Kinglake wrote, and many on the nearer Arctics since Lord Dufferin bore south and felt that "the girls at home had got hold of the

tow ropes," but few have survived. There are many books written which, having served their purpose naturally disappear, and of such were De Gasparin's "America before Europe," Flint's "Mexico under Maximilian," Keratry's "Rise and Fall of Maximilian," and others so well-known in their day.

The decade 1861-70 was a great one in the publication of books in the higher literature as well as in the world of fiction. Tennyson was the great force in poetry, Buckle in history, R. F. Burton in travel. Du Chaillu had, in his "Equatorial Africa" described for the first time the gorilla in his native haunts. Palgrave's "Arabia" opened up that country, as Bates's "The Naturalist on the Amazon" did for that region. A.K.H.B. gave us his delightful essays "The Recreations of a Country Parson." Sir Arthur Helps, Froude, Kinglake, Dean Hook, Ruskin and Tyndall were all active writers during these years. Great was the excitement produced by each appearing volume of Tennyson's "Idylls," Kinglake's "Crimea," and Froude's "History of England," whilst the appearance of "Ecce Homo" produced nearly as profound a sensation as did "Essays and Reviews" previously. Captain Gronow's "Reminiscences" soon became very popular, and have continued so until almost the other day. Another instance, perhaps, of the inimitable way in which the thing was done. Allow me just to name one or two books of the period which made no small stir then, but are never asked for nowadays. "Colenso on the Pentateuch," Edwards' "The Russians at Home," Dr. Cumming's "The Last Woe," E. S. Dallas's "The Gay Science," Angelina Gushington's "Thoughts of Men and Things," Lamont's "Wild Life in the Pacific," and "Sketches of Anglo-Indian Life," by "Gyp."

During this period Australian literature advanced, not so much in the number of works published as in the greater magnitude and scope of the subjects handled and their more finished exactness of treatment. Public Libraries, Literary and Mechanics Institutes, and Schools of Art were multiplied, and were active agencies in encouraging the growth of the intellectual and literary life of the people throughout the land. In pure Australian literature Henry Kendall appears in 1862 with his "Poems and Songs;" in 1863 appeared Sir William a'Beckett's "The Earl's Choice and Other Poems," whilst in 1865 Charles Harpur continued his poetic career with "The Tower of the Dream." In graver work Baron von Mueller was carrying on his work as a great botanist and publishing the results for the most part from the Melbourne Press, some of them of an elaborate character, both as regards matter and illustrations. In 1861 appeared that most delightful book "Bush Wanderings of a Naturalist, or Notes on the Field Sports, and Fauna of Australia Felix" by the "Old Bushman" (H. W. Wheelwright), famous in its day, aye and famous now when copies are rare and difficult to obtain. In 1863 appeared a name to become famous in the higher walks of literature—W. E. Hearn, A.M., LL.D., of the Melbourne University—who, in his "Plutology" from the Melbourne Press, earned a European reputation, and shed lustre on the seat of learning he was for so many years associated with. These two names illuminate the decade. Sir Frederick von Mueller was to the end an earnest student and a shining light in the world of botanical research, and Dr. Hearn in his three great works "Plutology," "The Government of England," and "The Aryan Household" made his mark as a great and an original thinker and writer upon history and political economy, whilst the brilliant fragment left by him—the codification and summary of the laws of Victoria—shows the

legal mind able to grasp and deal with the higher politics as expressed by the enactments of Parliament through the Legislature. Later on in the decade appears Adam Lindsay Gordon in his "Bush Ballads and Galloping Rhymes," never to be forgotten, of whom I shall have something to say later on. James Brunton Stephen also makes himself known in "Convicts once and other Poems," and so also does George Gordon MacCrae in "Mamlia" and "The Man in the Iron Mask." The publication of such works as Flanagan's "History of New South Wales" in 1862, Westgarth's "The Colony of Victoria" in 1864, William Howitt's "History of the Discovery of Australia," Tenison-Wood's "History of the Discovery and Exploration of Australia," and Samuel Bennett's "History of Australian Discovery and Colonization," serve to show what interest colonists took in the earlier episodes which marked the march of events in their adopted country.

The literature of the decade 1871-80 is tinged with the hue of the Franco-German War, more especially during its earlier years. The publication of Charles Greville's "Journals of the Reigns of George IV. and William IV." was one of the most noticeable features of the earlier years of this decade, both from the matter and the manner. The first edition was called in, in order that a certain passage should be deleted, and hence its value to this day. The extension of the journal to the reign of Victoria, and his brother Henry's Journal, did not meet with such a cordial reception as the earlier issue. Other prominent books of the day were the "Memoirs of Baron Stockmar," Kaye's "Sepoy War," Earl Malmsbury's *Reminiscences*, Henry Crabb, Robinson's *Diary*, Ruskin's "Queen of the Air," Yule's "The Book of Ser Marco Polo," the Duke of Argyll's "The Reign of Law," Dr. Dowden's "Shakespeare, His Mind and Art," and later on Froude's "The English in Ireland," Dilke's "Greater Britain," Hepworth Dixon's "Her Majesty's Tower," Mitford's "Tales of Old Japan," Farrar's "Life of Christ," and how popular also became Laurence Oliphant's "Piccadilly," "South Sea Bubbles," Butler's "Wild North Land," and Lady Barker's "Station Life in New Zealand," all of them alive to-day—and so also is the fiction of William Black, Rosa N. Carey, George Macdonald, Mrs. Edwards, George Meredith, Rhoda Broughton, Mrs. Gaskell, Mrs. Lynn Linton, "Ouida," and George Eliot published during this decade. There was, no doubt, much in the literature of this period which should in the ordinary course of events disappear, but why a good deal of wit, much pointed reminiscence, and matter of interest should do so is matter for speculation. Perhaps in some cases it is a temporary waning, to be followed by some proportion at least of waxing. Of such are, I think, Artemus Ward's works, bright expositions of American humour, McGregor's "Rob Roy Canoe," Charles Knight's *Autobiography*, Baker's "Nile Tributaries," Dr. Alexander Carlyle's *Autobiography*, Hepworth Dixon's "Free Russia," "French Home Life," and others.

During the earlier years of this decade Australian literature was by no means in the background. Marcus Clarke had appeared in 1869 with his first novel "Long Odds," the work of a young rising writer, not, perhaps, having the promise of his more mature work "The Term of His Natural Life," which appeared later on. B. L. Farjeon appears for the first time in "Grif, a Story of Melbourne Life." In Biological Science we have Sir Frederick McCoy's "Podromus of the Palæontology of Victoria," and in ethnology, James Bonwick's "The Daily Life of the Tasmanians." In 1874 was published Mr. W. H. Ranken's "The Dominion of Australia," a work of knowledge and wide acquaintance with

the subject, climate, physical conditions, occupations, cultivation, mining, commerce, politics, and people. In 1876 *The Australian Monthly Magazine* appeared, and *The Sydney Magazine* in 1878. In 1879 *The Victorian Review* appeared on the lines of the Nineteenth Century, and other half-crown English magazines, and it ran until 1883. *The Melbourne Review*, a quarterly issue of much literary ability, appeared in 1876, and ended with 1883, whilst the historical record shows George Alexander Sutherland's "History of Australia," 1606-1876, Labilliere's "Early History of Victoria" to 1877, James Fenton's "History of Tasmania," and William Hare's "South Australia, its History and Resources."

Many readers of to-day will remember the more stirring books from 1880 onwards. The memoirs of Madame de Remusat may be regarded as the *avant courier* of the mass of Napoleonic literature which has appeared since, and would seem to be endless. Morris's "The Epic of Hades," Swinburn's "Study of Shakespeare," Mallock's "Is Life Worth Living," Sayce's Babylonian Literature, Clifford's Lectures and Essays, Sir J. Lubbock's Works, R. L. Stevenson's Essays, J. R. Green's "The Making of England," and a host of others distinguished the years between 1880-1891, and in fiction the rise of novelists, whose books are in demand to-day, is to be noted in E. D. Gerrard, Jephson, Norris, Anstey, R. L. Stevenson, Edna Lyall, F. Marion Crawford, Mrs. Campbell Praed, Mrs. Hodgson Burnett, and others. In Australian literature Rolf Boldrewood makes a sure place in fiction with "Robbery under Arms." In history G. W. Rusden gave to the world in 1883 his two works, which may be called monumental, "A History of New Zealand," and "A History of Australia," and in Ethology we have R. Brough Smyth's great work "The Aborigines of Victoria." This period brings us face to face with a pure Australian writer of romance of undoubted power in the person of Mr. T. A. Brown, so well and widely known under the sobriquet of "Rolf Boldrewood." This writer has given to the world many striking romances, his first "Robbery under Arms" having fixed public attention upon him as a distinctive writer. And he has added to his laurels by such stories as "The Squatter's Dream," "The Miner's Right," and others. The two greatest Australian novels are generally considered to be "Geoffrey Hamlyn" and "Robbery under Arms," and there can be no doubt that sales of both books have been and are considerable. They are often compared, that by the Englishman, Henry Kingsley, is said to be the more finished in regard to portraiture and dramatic effect, whilst our Australian is said to bear the palm in regard to faithfulness and fulness of descriptive power, to excel, in fact, where the realities and intimate knowledge of bush life are concerned.

The years between 1886 and 1896 form a fitting sequel to the literary life of Australia from the year 1824 onwards. Many operative forces have been and are at work, new faces fill the canvass, and the endeavour to build up, to create, an Australian literature has never abated. That endeavour has never ceased to express itself in poetry as one of the forces at work, as this rapid and somewhat hasty survey has endeavoured to show. And now in these later years an Australian school of poetry has grown and taken shape which comprises "The Man from the Snowy River, and Other Poems" by A. B. Paterson, now in its fifteenth thousand, Henry Lawson's "When the World was Wide," now in its seventh thousand, Edward Dyson's "Rhymes from the Mines," Barcroft Boake's "Where the Dead Men Lie," and Victor J. Daley's "At Dawn and Dusk." All honour to these men and their books and to the enterprising

firm of Sydney publishers who have placed their works in such worthy apparel in the hands of the public. As in the earlier days the voice of young Australia was heard in song and story, so again to-day it is heard in those songs and in the stories of Rolf Boldrewood, Tasma, Guy Boothby, Mary Gaunt, Ethel Turner, Ada Cambridge, T. Heney, Louis Beck, and others. Regarding the failure to found a stable periodical literature in Australia it can be said with truth that this result has not been from lack of effort. We have not the large populations which are essential to the success of such ventures, we have the ambition and the literary ability, but not the abounding people. England to-day is as much, if not more so, the centre of our literary supplies, as it was ten years ago, from whence we draw the largest part of our mental food, and where our authors take their work to find the world's market, always excepting our noble band of poets. Not yet have we produced a Shakespeare, a Milton, a Tennyson, a Gibbon, a Scott, a Thackeray, but what Australian is there who does not hope for the day when from achievement accomplished, the south sea sister will take her place worthily with her two elder sisters of the north and west who have joined hands across the sea.

And now the consideration of what constitutes a representative book-trade would be incomplete without a reference to some branches which could not very well be dwelt upon at length here. The trade in school books has developed into large dimensions, both in imported and local publications, and add materially to the yearly turnover in any good book business. And so with regard to books on mining now becoming so numerous and so much used everywhere throughout mining Australasia, and sales of Encyclopædias, and books used by the expert and the student—all serve to swell the volume of business done.

This narrative may pause here. The titles of the stirring books of their years could easily be brought down to the present day, but nothing would be gained by so doing. These conditions remain which have been dwelt upon in the earlier part of this paper. It may be supposed that round about a business such as has been sketched here, there would in the course of years grow up a body of incidents, recollections of remarkable or eccentric characters, and reminiscences of a more or less interesting kind. When I look back to the past, what a procession of remarkable people, men and women, passes before me, giving point often to the tragedy and comedy of life. But were I to attempt any detailed account of this kind, the time and space at my disposal here would be too much encroached upon. Three individuals amongst those I have met in this way stand out in some relief. These are: Adam Lindsay Gordon, Madeline Smith, and Rudyard Kipling—a somewhat incongruous trio. Early in 1870 Adam Lindsay Gordon took out a half year's subscription to the Library connected with our business, and for four months or thereabouts he changed his books on an average twice a week. He never spoke to one of us, the only syllables he uttered being the two words "six months" after he had given his name. He was always alone, and ever took trouble and time in the selection of a book, either in biography or travel. I knew that he was a poet, though he was not so famous then as he afterwards became. Together with his taciturnity and loneliness—both, it appeared to me, deliberate—there was extraordinary power in his dark, piercing eyes. When they looked at you they appeared to see you through and through, and to read your innermost thoughts. I remember when I was a boy an old man telling us that he had spoken with Robert Burns in his young days, and that what struck

him most was the power of the poet's eyes. The remembrance of that description came back to me the first time Gordon looked at me, though it was only casually and for a moment. This moody man did not apparently seek for human sympathy or companionship, and so when on June 24, 1870, word came of his death, and its manner, it appeared to me somehow not to be divorced from the eternal fitness of things. The Madeline Smith episode was in this wise: I was a very little boy playing in an Edinburgh street when her trial was in progress there for the alleged murder of her lover. One afternoon there appeared a surging crowd round a hackney coach with a policeman sitting beside the driver, and the cry was that Madeline Smith was being taken from the High Court to the Calton Hill Gaol. As the coach drove past I got one glimpse of her like a lightning flash, the face of a young woman, fair, and with large blue eyes, fixed and intense in their gaze. Five and twenty years later a lady and gentleman came into the library where Adam Lindsay Gordon had been before them. It was winter and just before the gasses were lit, and as they came nearer I thought that I had seen the woman before somewhere; the man was quite unknown to me. The woman was Madeline Smith under a different name, older, and fuller in the face, but the eye was the same, fixed and intense in its gaze. Rudyard Kipling's visits to the library were of the most joyous incidents within my recollection. Free, frank, vigorous in expression, outspoken and modest, if ever a man was, without appearing to be unduly so. The first time he came into the library the mails from England had just been delivered, and the tables were covered with the magazines in all their new fresh glory from the *Nineteenth Century*, *Contemporary*, onward through the whole gamut. "Ha!" he said, "I never saw such a sight as this; get me a paper knife and a quiet corner until I get into touch with it all. And these were found for him and they remained his during his stay in Melbourne. When he came to say good-bye, he remarked: "Everybody in Australia has been so kind to me. I do not know what I have done to deserve it;" he did not appear to be convinced when I said that the creator of Mulvaney, Ortheris, and Learoyd deserved well of his countrymen all over the world. Rudyard Kipling appeared to me to be in all respects a contrast to Adam Lindsay Gordon. To which of them, I wonder, will posterity point as the greater genius. Before concluding I will just refer to one whose eccentricity was not habitual, but only intermittent, so to speak. This gentleman's foible, if it can be called one, was the *Quarterly Review*. It was in the days of monthly mails from England, before cable communication, when the first news of the arrival of a steamer was received by telegraph from Adelaide. His excitement then began, and he almost haunted the premises until the mail packages were opened and the *Quarterly* placed in his hands; or if it were not a *Quarterly* month, then *Blackwood's*—when armed with a large paper knife and with his coat cuffs tucked up, he ripped the leaves, fairly burning with excitement, ejaculating as he read, "Ha! not a leg to stand upon," "smashed to pieces," and so on. Others might be interested in the news of the day; to him these were meaner mortals concerned only with the things of the passing hour. At ordinary times he was a quiet, though acute citizen.

In conclusion, permit me to say a few words upon the prospects of the book-trade in Australia. Very much the same conditions which influence it elsewhere influence it in Australia. The general public read the book of the hour whether in fiction or general literature, whether

it be Lord Robert's "Forty-One Years' Service in India," Mahan's "Influence of Sea Power upon History," or, Anthony Hope's "Rupert of Hentzau," and the general public's booksellers are expected to have these books when they are wanted. But, taking into consideration the continued development of the novel and of the lighter and more scrappy and cheaper periodicals, I would venture to say that the book-trade, so far as the higher literature and dearer books are concerned, will find the competition to be keen and cutting, and that in many quarters, perhaps, new methods and arrangements may be required to meet and cope successfully with somewhat changed conditions. The formation of private libraries is more the exception to-day than formerly, and public interest in standard literature is less. It appears to me that the public mind is to some extent passing through a light reading phase, which, in course of time, will, in some measure, exhaust itself, and that sooner or later there will be a more or less general movement towards the higher literature. Depend upon it the noble work being done by our Public Libraries, our Literary Institutes, our Schools of Arts, throughout the length and breadth of the land in educating the people to reading habits in fostering the taste for the best books must react in time favourably upon the book-trade. And let me conclude by saying that the noble literary life begun in Sydney in 1824, which has continued and grown and expanded to this day, this life which has leavened the whole lump of Australia will still manifest itself in writing books to the compass of its powers, and in reading the very best to be had.

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THE BOOK TRADE IN NEW SOUTH WALES.

BY C. T. CLARKE, SYDNEY.

I propose to limit myself to one or two features of the book trade which bear upon the question, "What books do the people of New South Wales buy?" In dealing with them I shall refer only to literature properly so called, leaving out of consideration all works of instruction or reference that may be in use for professional or business purposes.

The conditions under which the book trade is carried on have considerably altered during recent years. One cause of the change, and one which has reference to the question to be dealt with, is to be found in the London publisher, who is now much more vigorous and enterprising, and is apparently backed by much more capital than the publisher of 15 or 20 years ago. He has a keener eye to commercial success, and in any speculation in which he embarks, expects a more immediate return. He can, moreover, to a larger extent than was formerly the case, command success. He can reckon upon a sufficient number of the reviews being commendatory, he has more representatives and agents, he has learned the art of advertising. Perhaps, however, the most important part of the alteration in the publisher is his feverish desire to ascertain what it is the public like, and that being discovered,

to give it in the largest possible doses. "Give the public what they want" is admittedly the maxim of a well-known and successful publisher (the same gentleman now providing us with an account of the adventures of De Rougemont), and it is more or less followed by every publisher. In putting it into practice he takes infinite pains, incessantly seeks for authors, is brimful of plans for new departures, and, unlike his elder brother of 25 years ago, is not bound by trade traditions.

The result of this enterprise and the competition resulting from it brings me to the first feature to which I wish to draw attention. New books have always issued freely from the press, and always have they been tempting to the public, but the yearly increase is now enormous, and never before did the public display the same keen appetite for novelty. In 1896 the number issued was 6500, and 1897 showed an increase of nearly 1400, making 7900, or more than 650 monthly. The public not only desire new books, but will take little else. They must all be what is termed "up-to-date." You are now quite "up-to-date" in literary matters if you are familiar with the principal volumes received this week, though your ignorance of what was published last year or 10 or 100 years ago may be profound. The mania for novelty has reached such a point that your bookseller (who has more than his work cut out to dispose of his wares before they become stale) can sell you a poor book if it arrived by to-day's mail, but has little chance of getting you to take the same volume if it arrived last week, that is, if you are aware it arrived last week. The book of the day (or hour) now completely commands the situation. Everyone must read the same book at the same time. A month, or a few months hence, it is stale, cannot be gossiped about, therefore need not be read. The book, no matter how good, that has not managed to get itself into the commanding position is more or less pushed aside, and is in serious danger of not being recognised. This is also the day of new authors. An unknown name is not the bar it was. Being new, it is even something of an attraction. A steady writer of sound fiction has really less chance of being raved about than the new author about whom the imagination may play and credit with unlimited possibilities. Not, of course, that I mean to imply that the public do not read the works of their favourite author. Quite the contrary; otherwise the bookseller's existence, difficult as it is now, would be impossible; but as a rule the known author, unless he strikes into some new path, or unless a specially favoured one, is not the hero of the hour, and does not secure the colossal sales. It must also be said incidentally that your favourite author by-and-bye becomes a bit tiresome; one begins to hear that he is writing too much (which is probably true), and you are not particularly eager to read his latest. This, of course, is only another phase of the desire for novelty.

Though the public will only buy what is new they will not buy all that is new, and the question arises as to what creates demand, which sometimes does not come when expected, and very frequently springs up when not expected. It is certainly not the old-fashioned sober newspaper review, for of these we do not now get very many. Reviews of late years have degenerated (I am speaking more particularly of London papers) into encouraging pats on the back. An author's work is not severely dissected in a column or two, as once was the case. "Notices" are now the order of the day, and under the pressure of the position little more can be expected. It is to be desired, however, from the point of view of the public, that these notices should not be limited to the good

points of the volume. It would be better, too, for the bookseller, for if there were a general impression that reviews fairly stated the real value of a book, some practical use could be made of them. As regards demand, a work no doubt must have some attractive feature in order to secure it, but this alone is not sufficient. The publisher, with his shrewd estimate of the needs of the hour and with his various methods of exciting curiosity or interest, has much to do with it. Providing the volume is fairly launched by publisher and bookseller the "up-to-date" people will do the rest. The hurry-scurry is soon in full swing, and for quite a month or two the entire reading community fastens upon this fortunate volume. Those who are lucky enough to be able to procure it at once, talk about it, and the remainder ask for it, and until they get it, console themselves with other absolutely brand new books of the value of which they know little or nothing. The difficulty which sometimes occurs of procuring at once the volume required arises from short supplies. So great is the uncertainty as to what will (to use another pleasant expression of the day) "catch on," that booksellers' first purchases of a new book must necessarily be cautious. It is impossible to trust to any large extent to merit or the reputation of the author. Manifestly shortness of life must be a characteristic of the new book. The latest jostle to one side their predecessors, and really meritorious works die much earlier than they deserve. A compensation occasionally secured by publishers is that in the general ignorance of what has been published in the past, an old book if brought out in a new form may meet with some success. Such success there would be little hope of its securing were its age known, but no one could guess its age from its appearance. The art of bringing out books attractively and cheaply appears to be now thoroughly mastered.

The next feature of the trade with which I shall deal is the class of literature to which these new books mainly belong. You will readily guess that it is fiction and what is called light literature. Light literature has naturally always been the most popular; the difference to-day is that it is so very, very light. Formerly the mere circumstance of being a novel made a book light; but there are distinctions now, and the present-day writer of fiction does not dare ventures after the style of some of the earlier novelists. Time cannot be found now to read long passages descriptive of scenery, character, incidents having no direct bearing upon the plot, or expounding the author's views of life. There must be a definite and stirring plot closely worked out, or certain highly-seasoned and suggestive details, or dialogue more or less amusing. He who may combine all these features will be the popular author, and will have the option of refusing fabulous sums from eager publishers. The humour, moreover, should not be too refined or remote: there must be a definite and clearly obvious joke. It hardly does to base your humour on Charles Lamb. The demand for light literature is met by cheap periodicals and the Colonial Library. The issue of periodicals ranging in price up to one shilling is enormous, and the publishers of them have made large fortunes in a comparatively few years. This periodical literature is by no means vicious, is sometimes instructive, and is no doubt found entertaining. It is "snippy" and "snappy"; but continual reading of it does not apparently create a desire for something more solid. It satisfies, and appears to destroy the capacity for enjoying other kinds of literature. Not only the very young or the ignorant, but a large part of the educated class amuse themselves with these periodicals,

of which a large number are published at one penny. Those who rise to the sixpenny popular magazine reach a considerable height, and figure as quite literary people. One can say many good things about these journals, but they certainly are not literature which tends—to borrow language recently applied to the drama—"to intellectual enjoyment, to refinement, to the exercise and cultivation of our best sensibilities and emotions."

The Colonial Library, upon which, along with periodicals, as I have said, the reader of light literature is dependent, is the method by which the London publisher not only meets but partially creates a demand in the colonies for the volume which he has just issued at home at a higher price. The Colonial Library has been the means of making the absolutely new book occupy the position I have described. Before it was inaugurated, price prevented the immediate purchase of the novel or other work exciting attention in London. We could not get it for 12 months or more as a rule, and therefore the feverish desire for the book of the hour did not develop. We read what had been London's book of the day a year or two before, and were in a cooler frame of mind over it. The old system, I am inclined to think, was the healthier, for we were thereby protected from much poor stuff. A volume that had sprung into spurious fame had been destroyed by criticism long before the usual time for a cheap edition to appear. Under the present arrangement, which has, of course, many advantages, there is the serious disadvantage that getting the volume hot from the press we have to take it largely on trust, and it is undeniable that along with much that is good we get much that we could well do without.

It is, of course, no news to those interested in the subject to be told that the public read new books consisting almost entirely of fiction; but as this fact appears to be unknown to, or is forgotten by, occasional writers in the press, it is perhaps desirable to point out and emphasise the actual position. Of course, I am not trying to convey the notion that it is an evil condition of things. Light literature, there is no doubt, we shall always need. But one consequence of the unrestrained tendency towards new books and fiction is most important, and is the third and last feature of the book trade to which I shall refer.

That feature is the rejection of the serious book. There used to be a kind of work some years ago described in the trade as "a standard book"—books that no bookseller could be without—more necessary to him than his shop furniture. I am afraid that "standard book" means to the bookseller in these days nothing more than a book that the public expect to get at a reduced price. Authors such as those I now mention, are, if not entirely, almost entirely, neglected. So much so, in fact, that they are rarely imported. It may be said that these books are borrowed from, or read in, libraries, but no explanation of the kind meets the case. Subscribers who pay one or two guineas per annum do not take out a copy of Bacon's Essays, I imagine; and though in public institutions books of this stamp may be read, yet those frequenting public libraries can only be considered a mere handful as compared with the whole population of the colony. Besides, it is found by booksellers that whenever a book is in demand that demand extends beyond the libraries, and sales result. These are some of the writers referred to:—Addison, Steele, Bacon, Boswell, Lamb, Lowell, Landor, Gibbon, Matthew Arnold, John Morley, Froude, Leslie Stephen, Mill, Leigh Hunt, Motley, Lecky, O. W. Holmes, and Washington Irving.

Carlyle and Macaulay are still a little in request, but apparently are dying. Numerous collections or libraries published at a very low price from 3d up to 2s per volume have been issued, and some years ago met with a fairly large sale. All these various series are now practically dead. They included authors and works such as De Quincey, Dr. Johnson, Sir Thomas Browne, Marcus Aurelius, Sir Thomas More, Sheridan, Swift, Goethe's "Faust," Hume, Plutarch, Pope's "Homer," "The Spectator," Burke, Dante, Locke, and numerous other writers that we usually class as great. The poets were probably never widely read, but were at any rate largely purchased; but now Wordsworth, Milton, Shelley, Keats, Coleridge, Chaucer, Spenser, and Scott, are left severely alone. Even Shakespeare suffers a serious decline. Some cheap editions of Shakespeare that were circulated in thousands at one time are now rapidly dropping out of request altogether.

The public do not buy, in fact, the great masters in English literature—do not buy history, poetry, philosophy, popular science, and literary criticism. Fifteen years ago they used to freely buy, and from the kind of editions bought, I believe they read all these books. Now they do not, nor, what is important, do they substitute modern books of the same class. The point I wish to emphasise in this connection is, that while the readers of serious books have always been comparatively few, they have now become so few as to be almost an extinct class. I do not, of course, say there are no righteous ones to save us from complete condemnation. No doubt there are one or two city booksellers who find buyers for some of these better books, but these buyers form an infinitesimal proportion of the entire population of the colony.

It is not a question of price, for, as already mentioned, nearly all the great writers may be obtained for a very low figure. In fiction, even, there is neglect of any work that requires for its enjoyment some intellectual faculty. In periodicals, too, the same peculiarity is to be observed in the falling circulation of certain well-known monthly magazines, whose aim is not to amuse but to form public opinion on great questions of the day. New books of travel and biography are, of course, read. They are probably the highest kind of literature in circulation, but they may fairly be classed as light, and the reproach attached to the neglect of the serious book is not removed by the sales of hundreds of a volume like Lord Roberts's "Forty-one Years in India." When one of this class is read it is chiefly because it is the book of the moment that the up-to-date person must know something of. The shelving of the great authors is no doubt due, as I have already suggested, to the immense output of new books, which readers of to-day think they must read, and to the debasement in taste resulting from too much indulgence in literature that makes no attempt to stimulate thought.

While writing this paper my attention has been drawn to some evidence given by Mr. Herbert Spencer in 1877 before a Royal Commission appointed to report on the question of copyright. A proposal had been submitted for limiting the copyright of a book to two or three years, after which period it would be open to any publisher to issue that book on payment of a royalty to the author. It was thought that this system would have the effect of cheapening books, and so bringing a better class of works within the reach of the masses. Mr. Spencer said, in reply to various questions, he "thought the proposed royalty system would act in cheapening just that class of books which it

would be a mischief to cheapen—the class which ministers to the craving for excitement and are really dissipating books. A publisher would be unlikely to choose one of the really valuable books, he would be far more likely to choose one of the books appealing to a numerous public, and of which a cheap edition would sell largely. Hence the obvious result would be to multiply these books of an inferior kind. Already that class of books was detrimentally large; already books bad in art, bad in tone, bad in substance came pouring out from the press in such torrents as to very much submerge the really instructive works, and the proposed new system would have the effect of making that torrent still greater and of still more submerging the really instructive books. There were people who, if tempted, would spend all their time on light literature, and if less tempted would devote some of their time to grave literature. People had but a certain amount of time and money to spend upon books; hence if there were a diminution in the quantity of sensational books there would be a larger reading of the instructive books, and, conversely, the multiplication of the class of lighter books would tend to diminish the reading of instructive books.” These were the opinions of Mr. Herbert Spencer, expressed 21 years ago, and they seem to describe with considerable accuracy the position we have reached to-day, though possibly the expressions “bad in art, bad in tone, bad in substance,” would be too severe to apply indiscriminately to our light literature. We have, too, arrived at the position by means similar to that under consideration in 1877. The proposed royalty system did not come into force, but almost the same thing is got in another way. One publisher scores a success in a certain line; other publishers cannot take his property, but they can imitate and improve, and this they do one after the other till the particular idea is worked to death. How this condition of affairs is to be altered, if it should be altered, it is not my province to say; but I think I may prophesy that booksellers will not attempt anything of the kind. In the past their method of carrying on their business, though not deliberately philanthropical, really had a tendency to keep the public in the straight path, a serious result, however, being that they lost heavily through purchases of volumes that people should have read, but would not. There have been members of the trade so infatuated as to obstinately decline to supply some of the varieties of light literature I have referred to, the only result being that the trade now knows them no more. Booksellers in future are likely to stick to the motto, “Give the people what they want.” This is a task difficult enough, and one that can hardly be performed without losses. They are not likely to add to these losses by attempting to force upon the public what they have learned by bitter experience the public do not want.

In conclusion, I may say that I believe the public prefer the best, but they are unable to get light or leading. Were there any better guides than mere fashion and irresponsible gossiping recommendations, it is, I think, certain that the best literature would receive more attention; but I suppose authority in these matters is not to be had. Our leading dailies devote considerable space once a week to literature, but there would be gain if there were more method—if they did not limit themselves to books that might happen to be sent in for review, but deputed a competent member of the staff to ascertain what were the important books of the week, and report on, or at any rate mention, them. This to a man with a capacity for tasting literature would not be

difficult, and would be valuable even if the whole ground could not be covered. It is not necessary to insist upon people reading what they might describe as musty old authors of a hundred years back. There are good modern writers of high degree in abundance. However, the reform of our habits of reading and non-reading (for, of course, there are thousands who never open a book) is not what I proposed to discuss. What people do and do not read, as ascertained from bookselling experiences, I trust I have made clear.

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BOOKBINDING FOR PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

BY F. S. BRYANT, MELBOURNE.

In writing this short paper on "Bookbinding for Public Libraries," I do so, not with the idea of being able to teach library officers the art of bookbinding, but simply to help them to form a fair judgment as to whether a book is bound well or badly, and also to stimulate them to study the binding of their books more closely, and so obtain good, strong, and well finished work. To this end I have endeavoured to explain, in as concise a manner as possible, a few of the different styles, as well as the most suitable of the materials used in binding for Public Libraries. I am leaving out everything connected with the history of bookbinding, on which there are a great number of works readily accessible to library employees, most of which find a place in our principal reference libraries.

The fitness of the binding to the character of the work which it protects is of great importance, and mistakes are often made in not using the materials best suited to the conditions to which the volume is to be subjected. It would be bad taste to bind a folio dictionary in light coloured calf with a heavily gilt back, or a small volume of poetry in a plain or sprinkled calf binding with blind tooling. Poetical works, works on art, music, and engraving, and most well illustrated volumes might be suitably bound in either morocco or coloured calf, well finished and ornamented, while dictionaries, philosophical works, etc., should have a plain binding. Books published in limited editions should be particularly well and strongly bound.

SEWING.

Good sewing is as essential to the binding of a book as a good foundation is to a building, for unless the book is well and strongly sewn, the whole of the work in binding the volume is lost. The ordinary sewing for a library book is done by fitting cords into saw cuts across the back of the book, and bringing the thread in and out of each section and across each cord, so that when the book is sewn the cords are flush with the back of the book. A book sewn in this way is bound with a loose or hollow back, and when it is opened the covering on the back acts independently of the book itself.

Another useful style is the flexible sewing. This is done without sawing the back of the book. The cords, which are usually thicker than those used in ordinary sewing, are placed outside the back of the book, and each section is then sewn on to them. They thus protrude from the back of the volume and form the bands. Volumes sewn in this way are bound with a tight back, or, in other words, with the leather attached to

the back of the book by means of paste. This style is useful for large volumes that are in constant use, as they lie perfectly flat when opened, without injury to the binding, but it is not so suitable for books that are to have a full gilt back, as the continual opening and closing of the volume is liable to crack the gold work. Flexibly bound books should have cloth, linen, or leather joints to the end-papers, and should be lined on the backs with leather.

BOARDS.

Mill-boards are the only boards suitable for library binding. A good hard board of medium thickness is much stronger than a thick soft one, and will last much longer. The use of straw-board should not be allowed under any circumstances. It cracks and breaks very easily, and chips and spreads at the edges where it comes in contact with the shelves. For heavy volumes that are in constant use, a slipper of coloured vellum fixed with glue to the bottom of the covers might be used with great advantage. This slipper should be about one inch deep on each side of the boards, and should extend the full width of the covers, but not across the back. It should be turned in over the outside corner. If the slipper be put on before the volume is sided, the side will cover the whole of it except a small portion at each corner of the boards where the slipper covers the leather. If put on after the volume has been sided, it is apt to detract from the appearance of the book. The slipper should be sewn along the top edge with catgut or waxed thread, and care must be taken not to punch the holes for the stitches too closely together, as this would render the boards liable to break across. The holes should not be less than a quarter of an inch apart. Wire stapling may be used instead of catgut or waxed thread, and is equally effective and neat. The use of these slippers originated in the Melbourne Public Library, and they were first used on the British Museum Catalogue. The difference between the volumes of the set with slippers and those without them is very apparent. In the former instance the slippers have kept the boards as firm and hard as they were when the volumes were first bound, while in the latter case the boards have flattened out, and are damaged to such an extent that the leaves of some of the volumes are resting on the shelves. Even should the slippers at any time be worn out, they can easily be replaced at a very small cost. Vellum is specially recommended for this work, as there is no other material used in binding that will stand so much friction.

MOUNTINGS FOR PLATES.

In all cases where folding plates, maps, etc., are to be mounted, good linen should be used. If calico, gauze, cheese cloth, or linen with much dressing in it be used, the plates soon become limp, and it is impossible to keep them in their proper folds. Nothing looks so unsightly as the plates rolled up instead of being folded. All folding plates, etc., should be mounted in such a manner that the whole of the plate will, when opened, extend beyond the front of the volume, so as to admit of its being referred to by the reader while perusing the letterpress referring to it.

EDGES.

The edges of a book should be in keeping with its cover. A book bound in half roan should not have a gilt edge, or a full calf or morocco one a sprinkled edge. All books should be well burnished on the edges, as the burnishing keeps out the dust. Marbled edges are the best for general use in a library. They last well, have a good appearance, and are not as costly as gilt edges.

LEATHERS.

One of the principal considerations is the selection of the leather, and I propose to deal with those most in use, leaving out all fancy and other leathers, viz. : pigskin, basil, skiver, alligator skin, and the various embossed and stamped leathers, etc., which are only on very rare occasions used in library binding.

MOROCCO.

The first and most important is morocco. This leather derives its name from the city in which it was first manufactured. It was first used in bookbinding in the sixteenth century, and has been very much in favour ever since. It is manufactured from goatskin, and is the best of all leathers for use in a library. It is the most durable, and, of all the good leathers, the cheapest. It is difficult for the uninitiated to distinguish the genuine from some of the best imitations, more so in the case of morocco than in any other leather. What is known as colonial morocco is that which is made from the second class of goat skins colonially dressed, few of the first quality or largest skins being sent out to the colonies in the rough state. The best skins are kept and dressed in Great Britain and other countries. Sheepskins are greatly used in imitation of morocco. They are much cheaper, and can without difficulty be dressed to closely resemble this leather. At one time genuine morocco could be distinguished from the imitation by the lines of colour on the back or flesh side of the skin, caused by the dye penetrating through the vein marks, but the tanners of sheep skins now colour the inferior article on the back to imitate the veins which are usually to be seen on genuine morocco. Levant is a superior kind of morocco with a large grain, and is very ornamental. It was originally made in the Levant from the skin of the Angora goat, and is very suitable for binding the larger-sized volumes, but it is a little more costly than ordinary morocco. It would be impossible to state a rule by which anyone but a tradesman would be able to distinguish the genuine from some of the best imitations, but if he will study the different qualities in the skin, he will soon be able to form a fair idea even after the leather is on the volume. The editor of one of the leading leather journals in England was asked by a correspondent if he would publish a rule whereby genuine morocco could be distinguished from the imitation. His answer was that there is no rule, and that only after a good deal of experience can anyone be certain of the quality. The best morocco has a firm, but not a harsh surface, and in the imitations the surface dressing soon wears off, or can easily be scratched off with the finger-nail. The best standing colours in morocco are brown, black, purple and the dark shades of green, blue and maroon; many of the tinted or half colours do not last well. Red or scarlet morocco, unless tanned by the chrome process, is liable to chip and crack. This is owing to the strong dye used in colouring. Chrome tannage renders leather impervious to mildew, and makes it more pliable and durable.

CALF.

Next to morocco, calf is the most useful leather for library binding. The plain or law calf is generally used for gazettes, Parliamentary papers and works relating to law. The coloured calf is useful for binding the smaller-sized volumes, and when finished with full-gilt backs, has a vere nice effect. Some of the bright coloured and tinted calfs are unsuitably for library work, as they fade quickly on the backs of the books, whereas the sides, which are not exposed to the light when on the shelves, retain

their original colour. Brown, black, drab, grey and the dark shades of blue, purple and green are good fast colours, but pink, scarlet, and the light shades of blue and green fade quickly. Sheepskin is often made up in imitation of calf, but the difference between the genuine and the imitation is not difficult to distinguish, the latter being much more open and porous and more spongy to the touch. Colonially dressed law calf can usually be recognized by the peculiar reddish tint on its surface, which is caused by the deep red mimotanic acid contained in the acacia bark, the chief tanning agent used in the colonies. The use of oxalic acid on calf by the binder has an injurious effect, as it dries up the natural oil in the leather, thus rendering it very liable to dry rot. There is a like tendency in the case of calf that has been tree-marbled or stained in any way by the use of acids.

ROAN.

It would be better not to introduce roan into a reference library unless for the binding of newspapers, the cost of binding these in morocco being generally considered too great. Roan will last almost as long as the poor class of paper on which most newspapers are printed, if the latter are subjected to much handling. The roan in common use is usually made from the skins of young sheep, but that made from the skins of older animals is stronger and better.

RUSSIA.

Genuine Russian leather, as the name implies, is a Russian production, but most countries are now making an imitation of it, though in no instance is it equal to that made by the Russians, who use in its manufacture only the hides of young cows. The peculiar odour for which it is noted is imparted to it by the means of a kind of tar used in the dressing, which is extracted from the birch tree, and known as birch tar. Russia is greatly used in the manufacture of purses, pocket-books and other fancy stationery, but for library binding it is not suitable, as it fades quickly, and soon perishes in warm rooms, or where gas is used, unless it is rubbed over with an oiled cloth periodically. The reason that pocket-books, etc., made from this leather last so long is because they obtain the requisite amount of oil from the continual handling to which they are subjected. Russia is used principally in account-book binding; it does not moulder, and is impervious to dampness and insects—two great enemies of books. Germany, France and Austria produce an imitation Russia in large quantities. The Americans manufacture an imitation Russia from cow hides, and it is used in some of the American libraries instead of law calf, and is spoken of very highly. Other American libraries are discarding law calf and using morocco on all books of any value.

CUTTING.

Library officers should see that their books are not ruthlessly cut down. Nothing looks worse than an illustrated work robbed of its margin. Books should be merely trimmed sufficiently to allow of their being properly burnished. They will then, as a rule, stand a second trimming should they at any time need re-binding. Care must be taken in the use of the paper-knife on uncut books, for if the edges are jagged to any depth; it will necessitate cutting further into the margin when the book is being bound.

SIDES.

Marble paper is greatly used in library binding, and for all but the large folios nothing is more suitable. It is clean, sticks well to the boards,

wears well, and is not so liable to harbour insects as cloth which has become loose. For the larger volumes, *i.e.*, for any size above a foolscap folio, I think cloth more suitable, and if carefully put on, it will last a great number of years. The fault in putting on cloth sides is that the glue is allowed to cool on the cloth instead of the side being put on as soon as possible after glueing it. Some of the plain, dull cloths are better put on with paste, but glue is used when the cloth has a grained, water-lined, or shiny surface. Cloth with a morocco grain is now made to match all the principal colours of morocco leather, and a book half-bound with the leather and cloth the same shade has a very nice appearance, especially in the dark green, brown, and red colours. Good contrasts can also be obtained by having the cloth in a lighter shade of the same colour as the leather.

LETTERING.

Unless a book is bound in one of the darkest colours, it is better to have lettering pieces of coloured leather; in fact, I favour having all books lettered on pieces. Great taste can be displayed by the finisher in choosing colours that will contrast well with the binding. Small lettering on a book bound in scarlet morocco is very difficult to read; whereas, if a dark piece be put on, the contrast would be good, and the lettering might be read without difficulty. Maroon pieces on a dark green binding have a nice effect, and maroon is a good lettering colour. Dark green or dark blue pieces on any of the darker leathers always look well. Red is not one of the best lettering colours, and should only be used on a book of sufficient size to enable large type to be used. All books bound in the lighter shades of calf have a better appearance when lettered on pieces. Unless this is done on some of the shades it is almost impossible to read the lettering. Lettering on yellow calf or morocco necessitates very close perusal. Leather used for lettering pieces should be entirely without a grain. Fancy type ought not to be used on ordinary library binding, as it is always more difficult to read. It is not a good plan to letter the title of a work in plain and the author's name in fancy or diagonal type, though this is a favourite practice with finishers. It should be possible to read the author's name just as easily as the title of the work. It is not a good plan to crowd too much lettering on to the back of a book. Short, easily read binder's titles are preferable to a fuller title in small and indistinct type.

LENDING LIBRARY BINDING.

In binding for a lending library morocco only should be used. It is not economical to bind in roan. It would be better to have a plain morocco binding than a highly finished roan one. A great reduction in the ordinary cost of morocco binding can be obtained by leaving out the bands, head-bands, marble edges and end-papers, and all gold and ornamental work with the exception of the necessary lettering. In this way a good strong binding is secured at the same cost as ordinary roan binding, which soon gets shabby, and which will not as a rule last as long as the poor paper on which a great many works of fiction are printed.

In the lending branch of the Melbourne Public Library cloth sides have been found to stand the rough usage, to which lending library books are subjected, much better than marble paper, and the cost of the former is only a penny a volume more than the latter. Another advantage with cloth sides is that they can be replaced by new ones much more easily than is the case with marble paper. Cloth sides when worn out can be peeled off, and the boards are left smooth and ready for the new ones, but

it is difficult to lift marble paper, and if a new side is put on over the old one, it will not stick properly to the old side, which is always more or less greasy from continual handling.

Specimens of fifty-two different leathers used in binding accompany this paper, and I have given a description of each one, which perhaps may interest some of the members of the Conference.

THE FOLLOWING ARE THE CONDITIONS FOR BINDING IN USE IN THE
PUBLIC LIBRARY OF VICTORIA.

The Binder will in every case have the volume collated before being bound. Should an omission of any portion of the work or an irregularity in the mode of binding up the matter be found to exist, the price charged for binding will be deducted from the account.

The Binder will, unless otherwise directed, back in all folding maps with thin union linen and insert them at the back of the volume in order of sequence; allowing each plate, when opened, to extend beyond the front of the volume so as to admit of its being referred to by the reader, while perusing the letterpress referring to it.

The Binder will burn his name on the leather inside the cover.

He will preserve autographs, bookplates, labels, etc.

If pamphlets of a different size be bound in one volume they should be level at the top without regard to the bottom.

The time allowed for binding is one month, which must not be exceeded.

All books to be half-bound unless specially ordered to be bound in full.

All books must, if required, be marbeled on the edges.

All lettering to be placed on pieces and to be clear and legible. Fancy type must not be used unless to follow a pattern.

All sides of half-bound books are to be of a good stout marble paper, cloth, or other approved material; this also applies to the endpapers.

All materials and workmanship must be of the very best quality. In the event of any inferiority being detected the price charged for binding will be deducted from the account.

Specimens of the leather, cloth, paper, and millboards to be used must accompany the tender which is to be made out in the form of the attached schedule.

Where any tenderer has failed to complete work given him within the time allowed, namely, one month, the Librarian may give any work which the said tenderer would be entitled to under the contract, to the next lowest in price, or cancel the contract.

Any tenderer may be called upon to satisfy the Librarian that he has sufficient appliances to execute the work satisfactorily.

The prices quoted shall include blocking the Library stamps on the outside cover of the volumes.

The Trustees do not bind themselves to accept the lowest or any tender.

It must be understood that the schedule of prices will not be accepted as a whole, and the Trustees reserve to themselves the right to accept a tenderer's price in any one or more of the items mentioned in the schedule attached to the conditions.

DESCRIPTION OF SAMPLES OF LEATHER.

	Sample.	Imported or Colonial.	Made from	To Imitate.	Colour.
1	Calf ...	Imp.	Calf-skin		Blue
2	"	Col.	"		"
3	"	Imp.	"		Drab
4	"	Col.	"		"
5	"	"	"		Black
6	"	Imp.	"		Fawn
7	"	Col.	"		Purple
8	"	"	"		Red
9	"	"	"		Myrtle
10	"	Imp.	"		Crimson
11	"	"	"		Yellow
12	"	"	"		Drab
13	Morocco ...	"	Goat-skin		Blue
14	"	Col.	"		"
15	"	"	"		Brown
16	"	Imp.	"		Red
17	"	Col.	"		"
18	"	Imp.	"		Green
19	"	Col.	"		"
20	"	Imp.	"		Black
21	Levant ...	"	Angora Goat		"
22	Straight-grained Morocco ...	"	Goat-skin		Red
23	Pigskin ...	Col.	Pigskin		Green
24	"	"	"		"
25	Vellum ...	Imp.	Sheepskin		White
26	"	"	"		Green
27	Skiver ...	Col.	Split Sheepskin		Red
28	"	"	"		Yellow
29	"	"	"		Black
30	"	"	"		Blue
31	"	Imp.	"		White
32	"	"	"	Lizard Skin	Yellow
33	"	"	"	"	Brown
34	"	"	"	"	Grey
35	"	"	"	"	Brown
36	Fly's-wing Skiver	Col.	"	Alligator Skin	"
37	"	"	"		"
38	"	"	"		Red
39	"	"	"		Green
40	Pask-grain "	"	"		Purple
41	"	"	"		Blue
42	"	"	"		Green
43	Skiver ...	Imp.	"		Black
44	"	"	"	Seal Skin	Yellow
45	Russia ...	"	Cow-hide	Pigskin	Red
46	Anglo-Russia ...	"	"	"	"
47	Crossed-grained Roan ...	"	Sheepskin	Russia	"
48	Glazed Roan ...	"	"		Green
49	"	"	"		Black
50	Straight-grained	Col.	"		"
51	Roans ...	"	"		Red
52	Sheep ...	"	"		White

THE COPYRIGHT ACT IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

BY A. A. S. STYLES, ASSISTANT, PUBLIC LIBRARY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

Twenty years have elapsed since the Parliament of South Australia dealt with the subject of this paper, and perhaps legislators did not then anticipate that Australian literature—a plant they were attempting to foster—was likely to develop into a mighty tree—a growth, by the way, which has extended beyond the limits of bibliographical record, and which has needed better legislation to enable the authorities to keep in touch with its progress. In this instance the old adage that “Acts were made to be broken” holds good, for it is a well-known fact that few publishers take the trouble either to have their works copyrighted, or to supply the Public Library with a copy in accordance with the law. Many books, pamphlets, etc., have not been acquired by the Public Library of South Australia, and each year reduces the chance of such books, etc., being obtained.

It is a matter of very great regret to those interested in Colonial literature that such a state of things should continue to exist, and I have selected the subject for my paper in order to direct attention to a matter which, in my opinion, requires alteration without delay. My intention is to deal with the Copyright Act only as it affects the Public Library, and as briefly as possible to direct attention to its clauses and omissions. Shortly, Part II. of the Act provides :—

1. The copyright in every book which shall have been published during the life-time of its author shall endure for the natural life of its author, and for the further term of seven years, commencing at the time of his death, and shall be the property of such author and his assigns ; provided that if the said term of seven years shall expire before the end of forty-two years from the first publication of the book in South Australia, the copyright shall in that case endure for such period of forty-two years ; and the copyright in every book which has been or shall be published in South Australia after the death of its author shall endure for the term of forty-two years from the first publication thereof in South Australia, and shall be the property of the proprietor of the author's manuscript from which such book shall be first published, and his assigns.
2. It shall be lawful for the Governor on complaint made to the Attorney-General, that the proprietor of the copyright in any book after the death of its author, has refused to republish or allow republication, and that by reason of such refusal such book may be withheld from the public, to grant a licence to such complainant to publish such book, subject to such conditions as the Governor may think fit.
3. A printed copy of the whole of every book, together with all maps, prints, etc., shall, within two calendar months after the day on which such book is first published, be delivered at the Public Library of South Australia.
4. If any publisher neglects to deliver such book as aforesaid, he shall, for every such default, forfeit, besides the value of such copy of such book, a sum not exceeding £5—to be recovered by the Librarian of the said Public Library in a summary way

on conviction before two Justices of the Peace, or by action of debt or other action at the suit of such Librarian in any court of competent jurisdiction in South Australia.

5. A register book wherein may be registered the proprietorship in the copyright of books, and in dramatic or musical productions, whether in manuscript or otherwise, and the assignments of such proprietorship and licenses affecting such copyright, shall be kept at the registry appointed by virtue of this Act, and shall be open to inspection on payment of one shilling for every entry which shall be searched for. It shall be lawful for the proprietor of copyright to make entry in the register book aforesaid.

Other clauses provide remedies for piracy, inflicting a penalty not exceeding £10, whilst the remainder of the Act is devoted to penalties which may be inflicted upon persons performing dramatic or musical pieces contrary to the rights of copyright.

Clauses 3 and 4 call for particular attention. Stringent as they may appear to some publishers, they are not to be compared to the laws prevailing in other countries, and if for no other reason than assisting to build up Colonial literature, one would think publishers should require no incentive to forward copies of their productions to the Public Library. So careless are they, however—even the Government Printing Office—that it is only by the greatest vigilance on the part of the Library authorities that a proportion of the works published is secured. Curiously enough, the Melbourne and Sydney Public Libraries are in possession of a number of South Australian works, copies of which the local body in Adelaide has been unable to secure.

In England publishers are compelled to deliver five free copies of all their publications. These are distributed amongst the British Museum, Oxford and Cambridge Universities, Trinity College, Dublin, and the Advocates' Library, Edinburgh. When a work of twenty volumes, valued at, say, thirty guineas, is produced, the compulsory gift of five copies is, no doubt, an important consideration; but in South Australia publishers are only asked for one copy for the Public Library, and unfortunately this one copy is not always secured. The reviews which are given of many South Australian publications in the local newspapers bring such works under the notice of the Library officials, and in this case a letter is sent to the publisher soliciting a copy for the Public Library. There are, however, many others which are not noticed in the newspapers, and of which, perhaps, only a limited number of copies is printed. If copies of these are not obtained at once, there is much likelihood of their being missed altogether. But how are the Public Library officials to become aware of the existence of such works?

The Copyright Act, clause 5, states that a book is to be kept wherein *may* be registered the proprietorship in the copyright of books, but it does not *compel* such a desirable course.

In his "Theory of National and International Bibliography," Mr. F. Campbell deals with the subject in its true light, so far as we are concerned, by stating that "In the majority of [British] Colonies there are no systems for the record of literature, and where systems exist they either vary in plan or are inadequate. The longer this lack of system continues, the greater the confusion and loss." Again, in the same work (page 124), he says: "It is necessary for each Colony to recover both works and titles of what already exists, and take steps for the registration of new literature."

The only bibliography of South Australia published in the Colony is that by Mr. T. Gill, 1886, but as this is now out of date and needs revising, I should like to see some enterprising individual, who has both the time and ability, take this matter in hand at an early date.

Some time back the Governments of the different Colonies received a circular emanating from the Royal Colonial Institute, asking for information concerning official and other locally published works, and through the absence of any reliable bibliography of South Australia no reply to this circular was sent from that Colony.

The question is : Why have we no reliable bibliography of South Australia ? It seems to me that the remedy is simple. The Copyright Office in Adelaide keeps a record of all books entered under the Act, but as this record is not published, little good results from it. How can works not copyrighted be traced ? One way out of the difficulty, and it seems to me the simplest, would be to pass a law compelling publishers to furnish monthly a complete list of their publications to the Registrar of Copyrights. That official could then furnish to the Public Library, at stated intervals, the lists of works published, with the publishers' names and addresses ; the Library could then exchange lists with the other Colonies. By this means the desirable record of Australian literature could be secured. Once in possession of a list of all new works and the publishers' names, the Library authorities would, I think, experience very little difficulty in securing copies of all local publications.

In America the Simmonds Copyright Bill, section 4, provides :— " That it shall be the duty of the proper officer to publish weekly lists of registrations", and seeing that it has acted well there, perhaps a monthly or bi-monthly record could be published in the Government Gazettes of these Colonies.

I will give one more instance before I conclude this paper. In the Cape of Good Hope, in accordance with the Book Registry Act of 1888, as well as under the provisions of the Copyright Act of 1873, a transcript of the entries registered in the Registry Book under either of these Acts has to be prepared quarterly by the Registrar of Deeds, and forthwith published in the Government Gazette. By this means a complete register of all works is preserved, showing the date of registration, the title of the book, etc., time of publication, name of place and abode of publisher, name and place of abode of the proprietor of the copyright, name of author, editor or compiler, and general remarks. To adopt this system in the Australian Colonies would, in my opinion, be attended with little extra expense or trouble. The index to South Australian official publications, or at all events to the Parliamentary Papers, is annually compiled, and to do this quarterly should add little to the cost of compilation. The only extra expense would be its publication in the Government Gazette, or by lists referred to above to be sent out by the Registrar of Copyrights.

The introduction of some scheme for the preservation of Australian literature is imperative, and I think I only echo the sentiments of all those interested in the intellectual advancement of our continent, when I express the opinion that the time is ripe for legislative machinery to be brought to bear upon this matter, and to suggest that, as it is a matter of so much importance to the national collections of the different Colonies, some action by the Library Association of Australasia should be taken with a view to securing the official registration of every work published in any part of Australasia.

THE LIBRARY OF THE AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM.

BY SUTHERLAND SINCLAIR, SECRETARY AND LIBRARIAN, AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM.

The substance of this paper is printed in the "Transactions and Proceedings of the Second International Library Conference held in London, July 13-16, 1897."

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LIST OF MEMBERS AND ASSOCIATES, 1898.

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Anderson, H. C. L.	Fairfield Mechanics' Institute
Anderson, Rev. W. A. S.	Favenc, E.
Angus & Robertson, Messrs.	Fletcher, J. J.
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Armitage, Mrs. D. E.	Germanton School of Arts
Australian Museum	Gifford, G. H.
Backhouse, His Honor Judge	Gornall, P.
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 MacCallum, Mrs. M. W.
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 Macdonnell, W. J.
 McGibbon, G.
 Maiden, J. H.
 Megginson, Dr. A. M.
 Mitchell, D. S.
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 Moree School of Arts
 Moss Vale School of Arts
 Mount Kembla Library
 Mullens, A. L.
 Mullens, Josiah
 Narrandera Mechanics' Institute
 Newcastle School of Arts
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 Norton, Mrs. J.
 Norton, Miss Alice
 Oaks School of Arts
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 Pyree School of Arts
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 Toongabbie School of Arts
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 Vegetable Creek Mining Institute
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 Wahlberg, E. G.
 Walcha School of Arts
 Walgett School of Arts
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 Wallsend School of Arts
 Walsh, F.
 Wentworth School of Arts
 Wilcannia Athenæum
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 Windeyer, Miss M.
 Wood, Prof. G. A.
 Wright, Hugh
 Wymark, F. V. G.
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 Barnard, F. G. A.
 Beechworth Mechanics' Institute
 Bendigo Mechanics' Institute
 Boys, R. D.
 Cheltenham Mechanics' Institute
 Chiltern Athenæum
 City of Ballarat Free Library
 Collingwood Free Library
 Congregational College Library
 Darvall, W. H. C.
 Davies, W.

Diocesan Library, Melbourne
 Doncaster Athenæum
 Essendon Public Library
 Fitzroy Free Public Library
 Geelong Free Library
 Hall, T. S.
 Howard, John
 Irving, H. A. C.
 Kerr, J. M.
 Kew Literary Institute
 Korumburra Mechanics' Institute
 Lancefield Mechanics' Institute

Leeper, Dr. A.
 Lorne Free Library
 Meadowcroft, Mrs.
 Melbourne University Library
 Melville, A. G.
 Melville, Mrs. A. G.
 Mitta Mitta Mechanics' Institute
 Mordialloc Mechanics' Institute
 Morris, Prof. E. E.
 Mortlake Mechanics' Institute
 Murchison Mechanics' Institute
 Murrumbidgee Literary Institute
 Neville, Alfred
 North Melbourne Mechanics' Inst.
 Numurkah Mechanics' Institute
 O'Connor, D. C.
 Portland Free Library
 Prahran Public Library
 Public Library of Victoria
 Quirk, P. C.
 Reid, Rev. John
 Ridley, J. S.

Rusden, H. K.
 Shellew, C. F. H.
 Sheppard, S.
 South Melbourne Mechanics' Inst.
 South Melbourne Free Library
 St. Arnaud Mechanics' Institute
 Stawell Mechanics' Institute
 Sutherland, A.
 Tatura Mechanics' Institute
 Terang Mechanics' Institute
 Turner, Henry G.
 United Grand Lodge of Masons'
 Library
 Vallins, Jas.
 Victorian Railways Library
 View Point Free Library, Bendigo
 Vogler, W. J.
 Wangaratta Free Public Library
 Warracknabeal Mechanics' Inst.
 Wedderburn Miners' Literary Inst.
 Wilson, Dr. J. P.
 Yackandandah Athenæum

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 Port Pirie Institute
 Rundle, H. C.
 Russell, W.
 Salmond, Prof.
 Shaw, F. M.
 Styles, A. A.
 Tait, John
 Taylor, F. H.
 Taylor, Major H. B.
 Thomson, Mrs. B.
 Way, Right Hon. S. J.
 Whillas, C. B.
 Wilson, Rev. A.

NEW ZEALAND.

Auckland Free Public Library

Canterbury Public Library

QUEENSLAND.

Brisbane School of Arts
 Gardner, D., Maryborough
 Maryborough School of Arts
 Public Library of Queensland

Rockhampton School of Arts
 Rendle, Dr. R., Brisbane (formerly
 of Fremantle, W.A.)

TASMANIA.

Johnston, A., Launceston
 Launceston Mechanics' Institute

Thompson, Dr. L. Grey, Launceston

APPENDIX A.

BOOKS ON LIBRARY ECONOMY, RECOMMENDED FOR COUNTRY LIBRARIES.

THE LIBRARY SERIES—4 vols., each 6/- net.

1. The Free Library, its History and Present Condition; by J. J. Ogle.
2. Library Construction, Architecture, Fittings, and Furniture; by F. J. Burgoyne.
3. Library Administration; by J. Macfarlane, of the British Museum.
4. Prices of Books: An inquiry into the changes in the prices of books which have occurred in England at different periods; by H. B. Wheatley.

LIBRACO SERIES—

Manual of Library Classification and Shelf Arrangement; by J. D. Brown. 4/-

Manual of Library Cataloguing and Indexing; by J. H. Quinn.
Public Library Primer; by F. T. Barrett. [On daily routine of Public Libraries.]

Greenwood's Library Year Book, 1897. 2/6.

Public Libraries: A History of the Movement, and a Manual for Organisation and Management. 4th ed. 2/6.

Brown, J. D. Handbook of Library Appliances. 1/-

Library Bureau: Classified Catalogue of Library Fittings and Supplies. Boston, 1897.

Literary Year Book, 1898. Edited by J. Jacobs. Lond., 1898. 3/6.

Who's Who, 1899. Edited by D. Sladen. Lond., 1899. 3/6.

Heaton, J. H. Australian Dictionary of Dates. Sydney, 1897. Second-hand, about 2/6.

Mennell, P. Dictionary of Australasian Biography. Lond., 1892. 10/6.

Public Library of N.S.W.—Guide to the System of Cataloguing; by H. C. L. Anderson. 3rd. ed. Sydney, 1898. 10/-

Cutter, C. A. Rules for a Dictionary Catalogue. Washington, 1891.

Fletcher, W. I. Public Libraries in America. Boston, 1894. 4/-

Catalogue of "A.L.A." Library: 5000 Volumes for a Popular Library. Washington, 1893.

ADDITIONAL WORKS OF REFERENCE RECOMMENDED FOR MORE
ADVANCED LIBRARIES—

Allibone, S. A. Critical Dictionary of English Literature and British and American Authors. 3 vols. London, 1859-71. £4 10s.
Second-hand copies may be had cheaply.

Supplement, by J. F. Kirk. 2 vols. Philad., 1891. £3 3s.

- Sonnenschein, W. S. *The Best Books*. 2nd. ed. Lond., 1891. 31/6 net.
 „ *A Reader's Guide to Contemporary Literature*
 Being the first Supplement to "The Best Books".
 Lond., 1895. 25/-
- English Catalogue of Books. Yearly, at 5/- each.
 Annual American Catalogue. Yearly, at 12/6 each.
- Funk and Wagnall's *Standard Dictionary of the English Language*.
 2 vols. New York, 1895. £5 5s.
- Cushing, W. *Initials and Pseudonyms*. Lond., 1886. 25/-
 „ ————— *Supplement*. Lond., 1888. 21/-
 „ *Anonyms*. 2 vols. Lond., 1889-90. £2 12s. 6d.
- Poole, W. F., and Fletcher, W. I. *Index to Periodical Literature*.
 Boston, 1882. £3 10s.
 ————— 1st. Supplement, 1882-87. Lond., 1888. £1 15s.
 ————— 2nd. Supplement, 1887-92. Lond., 1893. £2.
 ————— 3rd. Supplement, 1892-96. Lond. [1897]. £2 10s.
- Review of Reviews'* Index to Periodicals. Issued annually. Vols. 1-5,
 1890-94, 5/- each; Vols. 6-8, 1895-97. 10s. each.
- Cumulative Index to Periodicals. (Monthly and Annual). £1 6s.
- Adams, O. F. *Dictionary of American Authors*. Boston, 1897. 10/6.
- Sharp, R. F. *Dictionary of English Authors*. Lond., 1897. 7/6.
- Pratt, A. T. C. *People of the Period*. 2 vols. Lond., 1897. 21/-
- Lippincott's *Gazetteer of the World*. Philad., 1893. £1 18s.
- Dewey, M. *Tables and Index of the Decimal Classification*. 5th ed.
 Boston, 1894. £1 10s.

PERIODICALS—

- The Library Association Record*. London. 1/- monthly,
The Library Journal. New York. 2/- monthly.
Athenæum (3d. weekly), *Literature* (6d. weekly), *The Bookman*
 (6d. monthly), and *The Publishers' Circular* (1½d. weekly)

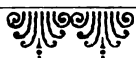


Library Association of Australasia.

SYDNEY MEETING, 1898.



*** * Programme. * ***



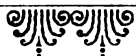
HON. DR. JAMES NORTON, M.L.C., President.
Professor M. W. MACCALLUM, Hon. Treasurer.
H. C. L. ANDERSON, M.A., Hon. Secretary.
G. H. GIFFORD, } Assist. Hon. Secretaries.
HUGH WRIGHT, }

Library Association of Australasia.

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HUGH WRIGHT, }

TUESDAY, 4th October.

8 p.m.—**Conversazione and Loan Exhibition** of old and rare books, manuscripts, engravings, and historical relics, in the Great Hall, Sydney University. His Excellency the Governor, the Minister of Public Instruction, and the Mayor of Sydney will be present.

WEDNESDAY, 5th October. Morning Session at Public Library.

10 a.m.—**Reception of Delegates** in Board Room of Public Library of New South Wales. Bent-street entrance.

10.30 a.m.—**President's Address**, by the Hon. James Norton, LL.D., M.L.C.

Papers on "**The Public Library and the Public**," by E. L. Armstrong, LL.B., Librarian of the Public Library of Victoria.

"**Library Classification**," by W. H. Ifould, Assistant, Public Library of South Australia.

"**Dewey System of Classification**," by C. Hardy, B.A., University Library, Sydney.

"**The Free Library Movement in South Australia**," by F. I. Meleng, Librarian of the Port Adelaide Institute.

"**Travelling Libraries**," by R. D. Boys, Assistant, Public Library of Victoria.

"**Circulation of Book Boxes amongst Country Institutes in South Australia**," by J. R. G. Adams, Librarian of the Public Library of South Australia.

2 to 3 p.m.—**Discussion on the Morning's papers.**

3.30 to 6 p.m.—His Excellency the Governor and Viscountess Hampden will receive the Intercolonial Delegates, and such of the Delegates of the Representative Country Institutions as have received Invitations for the Garden Party at Government House.

8 p.m.—**Lecture** by Prof. E. E. Morris, M.A., Melbourne University, on "**Sir Joseph Banks**," will be delivered in Lecture Hall of School of Arts, 275 Pitt-street, Sydney.

The Public are cordially invited to this meeting.

11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

THURSDAY, 6th October. Morning Session at Public Library.

9 a.m.—Inspect the Public Library.

10 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.

Papers on "One of the Great Libraries," by Alex. Leeper, M.A., LL.D.

"State Subsidies and Private Benefactions to Libraries,"
by H. C. L. Anderson, M.A., Principal Librarian of the Public
Library of New South Wales.

"School Libraries," by John Kevin, Inspector of Public Schools.

"Children's Home Libraries," by Miss Margaret Windeyer of
Albany Library School, New York, U.S.A.

"Co-operative Index to Australian Magazines and Newspapers,"
by Hugh Wright, Assistant Librarian, Public Library of New
South Wales.

1 to 5.30 p.m.—Picnic round the Harbour in s.s. "Premier"—By Invitation. The
boat will leave Prince's Stairs, opposite the Custom House, Circular Quay
at 1 o'clock sharp.

EVENING SESSION at Sydney School of Arts, 275 Pitt-street.

8 p.m.—Papers on "Place of Fiction in Public Libraries," by Prof. M. W.
MacCallum, M.A., Sydney University.

"Abuse of Fiction in Lending Libraries," by Wm. M. Fairland
Secretary of Sydney School of Arts.

"Municipal Libraries," by E. B. Taylor, Railway Institute,
Sydney.

"Difficulties of Country Schools of Arts," by A. W. Jose,
Secretary of the University Extension Board.

The Public are cordially invited to this meeting.

9 to 11.30 p.m.—Women's College, Bligh-street, Newtown. "At Home." By special
invitation from Miss Louisa Macdonald, M.A.

FRIDAY, 7th October. Morning Session at Public Library.

9 a.m.—Visit the School of Arts, by invitation of Committee.

10 a.m.—Discussion of Papers read yesterday.

11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Papers on "Literary Finds in Australia," by Prof. E. E. Morris, M.A.

"Poetry and Public Libraries," by W. H. C. Darvall.

"The Book Trade in Australia," by A. G. Melville.

"The Book Trade of New South Wales," by C. T. Clarke.

"The Australian Museum Library," by S. Sinclair, Secretary of
Australian Museum.

"Bookbinding," by F. S. Bryant.

"The Copyright Act of South Australia," by A. A. Styles, Assistant,
Public Library of South Australia.

FRIDAY, 7th October. Afternoon Session at Public Library.

2 to 3 p.m.—Delegates to meet—

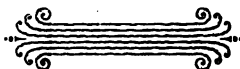
1. To revise and amend the Constitution of the Association.
2. To determine place and time of next meeting. (The South Australian Branch has invited the Association to meet in Adelaide in 1900).
3. To elect officers.

3.30 to 5.30 p.m.—To visit the University, and inspect the Library, Museums and Laboratories; or the Australian Museum, where Captain Cook's Log and other relics will be displayed.

SATURDAY, 8th October.

The Hon. Secretary is willing to arrange for an excursion to the Blue Mountains, the Hawkesbury River, or the Illawarra District, if the Delegates so desiring will communicate their wishes to him. The railway fare would be about 6s, and the Committee would arrange for and provide lunch and tea.

NOTE.—The Committee of the Sydney School of Arts have made all Delegates to the Conference Hon. Members of their Institution for the week of the meeting, thereby giving them the privileges of the Library and Reading Rooms.



Library Association of Australasia.

SYDNEY MEETING, 1898.



GUIDE

... TO THE ...

Loan Exhibition

... OF ...

**Old and Rare Books, Manuscripts, Engravings,
and Historical Relics,**

HELD IN THE

Great Hall, Sydney University,

OCTOBER 4th, 1898.

NOTE.

This rough list of Exhibits has been most hurriedly^e compiled and printed during the last three days, chiefly from the lists and notes supplied by the exhibitors themselves.

It has no pretensions to any bibliographical value, but it is hoped that it will prove of service to our guests and visitors as a finding-list.

It has been found necessary to employ five different persons to make parts of the list, hence the want of uniformity.

Its existence, be its merits what they may, is entirely due to the industry and zeal of my valued assistants, Messrs. G. H. Gifford and Hugh Wright, ably seconded by the skill and enterprise of our printers—Messrs. Hennessey, Campbell & Co.—who have worked day and night to help us.

We regret that it has been impossible to prepare alphabetical lists of authors and the more famous printers represented.

HENRY C. L. ANDERSON,

Hon. Secretary

3rd October, 1898.

Guide to Loan Exhibition.

Exhibited by DAVID SCOTT MITCHELL, Esq., M.A.

- 1 Suetonius. *De Grammaticis*. Romæ, 1472.
Spaces left for illuminated capitals.
- 2 Athanasius. *Prologus in prima Pauli ad Romanos Epistolas*.
Romæ, 1477.
- 3 Aquinas, Thomas. *Commentaria super Epistolas S. Pauli*. Bononia,
1481.
- 4 Breeches Bible, with two right profitable and fruitfull Concordances,
by Christopher Barker. London, 1586.
- 5 Lycosthenes, Conrad. *Prodigiorum ac Ostentorum Chronicon*, 1557.
Quaint woodcuts.
- 6 *Le Pompe Funebri dell' illustrissima Signora Elena Lucrezia Cornara
Piscopia*. Padua, 1686.
Contains Autograph of Titus Oates.
- 7 Chaucer, Geoffrey. *Works of*. London, 1561.
Black letter, vellum binding.
- 8 Spenser, Edmund. *The Faerie Queen; The Shepheard's Calendar*.
London, 1617.
- 9 Phillips, Katherina. (*Orinda*). *Poems*. London, 1669.
- 10 Jonson, Ben. *Works of*. (Large paper copy). London, 1640.
- 11 Pyne, W. H. *Royal Residences*. London, 1819.
- 12 Shaw, Henry. *Illuminated Ornaments*. London, 1833.
- 13 ——— *Dresses and Decorations of the Middle Ages* (Large
paper copy.) London, 1843.
- 14 Cruikshank, George. *Greenwich Hospital, a Series of Naval Sketches*.
(Illustrated). London, 1826.
- 15 McLan, R. R. *Clans of the Scottish Highlands*. London, 1845.
- 16 Higgins, Godfrey. *Anacalypsis: An attempt to draw aside the veil of
the Saitic Isis; 2 vols.* London, 1836.
- 17 Westwood, J. O. *Palæographia Sacra Pictoria: Being a series of
Illustrations of Ancient Versions of the Bible copied from
Illuminated Manuscripts*. London, 1843-5.
- 18 Mercuri, Paul. *Costumes Historiques des XII., XIII., XIV. et XV.
Siccles*. Paris, 1860.
- 19 Sauvan. *Picturesque Tour of the Seine*. Paris, 1821.

- 20 Grindlay, Robert Melville. Scenery, Costumes, and Architecture of India. London, 1830.
- 21 Views of Lansdown Tower, Bath: The favorite edifice of the late William Beckford, Esq. London, 1844.

Exhibited by ALFRED LEE, Esq., Bondi.

- 22 Dyer, John. *The Fleece*. London, 1757.
Contains a prophecy that Australia would be a wool-producing country.
- 23 Munster *Cosmographiæ Universalis*. Basileæ, 1559.
- 24 Quiros, Capt. Pedro Fernandez de. Memorial presented to the King of Spain. Pamplona, 1610.
First Spanish edition.
- 25 ——— Memorial presented to the King of Spain. Augspurg, 1611.
First German edition.
- 26 ——— Memorial presented to the King of Spain. Amstelodami, 1612.
First Dutch edition (French text).
- 27 ——— Memorial presented to the King of Spain. London, 1617.
First English edition, said to be the first English book published on Australia.
- 28 ——— Memorial presented to the King of Spain. Paris, 1617.
First French edition.
- 29 Purchas, Rev. Samuel. Purchas, his Pilgrimage, or Relations of the World, etc. London, 1617.
- 30 ——— Purchas, his Pilgrimes. London, 1625-1626.
- 31 Schouten, W. C. Journal of Voyage Round the World in 1615, 1616, and 1617. Amsterdam, 1619.
- 32 ——— Journal of Voyage Round the World in 1615, 1616, and 1617. Paris, 1618.
Le Maire and Schouten sailed together in this famous voyage, the former as director, the latter as the skipper. Certain jealousies arose on their return, and the friends of Schouten hastened to publish this narrative under his name, while the recital of Le Maire (based on the same log book) did not appear till 1622.
- 33 ——— Journal of Voyage Round the World during 1615, 1616, and 1617. Hoorn, Jan. Jansz. Deutel, 1648.
This edition contains additions from the M.S. journals of Aris Claaszoon and others.
- 34 Le Maire, Jakob. *Spiegel der Australische Navigatie*. t'Amsterdam, 1622.
In this book appears for the first time (so far as is known) the word *Australia* as now spelt.
- 35 Hawkins, Sir Richard. The Observations of Sir Richard Hawkins, Knight, in his Voyaging to the South Sea, A.D. 1593. London, 1622.
- 36 Vlaming, Capt. Willem de. Voyage to West Australia in 1696. Amsterdam, 1701.
- 37 Pelsaert, E. François. *Ongeluckige Voyagie van't Schip Batavia*. t'Amsterdam, 1630.

- 38 Hall, Rt. Rev. Joseph, Bishop of Norwich. *Mundus Alter et Idem, sive Terra Australis*. Ultrajecti, 1643.
- 39 The Discovery of a New World, by an English Mercury. London, about 1638.
- 40 Neville, Henry. *The Isle of Pines, or the Discovery of a Fourth Island near Terra Australis Incognita*. London, 1668.
- 41 Siden, T. *The History of the Sevarites or Severambi, a Nation inhabiting Part of the Third Continent, commonly called Terræ Australes Incognitæ*. London, 1675.
- 42 ——— *Histoire der Severambes*. t'Amsterdam, 1701.
- 43 Foigny, G. de. *Les Aventures de Jacques Sadeur dans la Decouverte et le Voiage de la Terre Australe*. Paris, 1692.
- 44 *The Hairy Giants, or a Description of Two Islands in the South Sea, called by the Name of Benganga and Coma, discovered by Henry Schooten*, 1669. London, 1671.
- 45 Smollett, T. *Gulliver's Travels*. London, 1727.
Vol. II.—Chart shows part of South Coast of Australia.
- 46 Bowman, H. *The Travels of Hildebrand Bowman, Esq., in New Zealand, etc.* London, 1778.
- 47 Purry, J. J. *Memoire sur le Pais des Cafres et la Terre des Nuyts*. Amsterdam, 1718.
Contains a proposal to found a colony in what is now known as South Australia.
- 48 Omai. *Letter from Omai to the Right Hon. the Earl of Sandwich*. London, 1780.
- 49 *Estimate of Account for a South Fishery, with an appendix—Objections to the New Holland Settlement, compared with New Zealand*. London, about 1785.
Contains proposal to colonise New Zealand in preference to New South Wales.
- 50 Cook, Capt. James. *A Catalogue and Specimens of Cloth, collected by Capt. Cook in the South Seas*.
- 51 ——— *Journal, large paper copy*.
Bound in wood from Cook's Tree.
- 52 Ortelius, Abraham. *Typus Orbis Terrarum*. Antwerp, 1575.
Showing early map of Australia.
- 53 *Antidote to Misrepresentation and Impiety, &c., with collection of hymns*. Sydney, 1828.
First hymn book printed and published in Australia.
- 54 *First Survey of Melbourne, by Mr. Wedge and others*.
- 55 *Kerr's Melbourne Almanac and Port Phillip Directory for 1841*.
First Melbourne Directory.
- 56 *The "Sydney Herald."* Sydney, 1831.
Vol. 1, No. 1 of the "*Sydney Morning Herald*."
- 57 *Gould's Birds of Australia*.
Specimen of fine binding
- 58 *Rules and Orders of the Governor's Court in New South Wales*. Sydney, 1815.

- 59 Sherbrooke, Viscount. Electioneering Cards of Mr. R. Lowe (Viscount Sherbrooke), Mr. W. C. Wentworth, Dr. W. Bland.
- 60 Banks, Sir Joseph. Manuscript Journal, kept by Sir Joseph Banks during his voyage in the South Seas with Capt. Cook.
- 61 ——— Volume of Manuscripts, consisting of letters and tradesmen's accounts in connection with Sir Jos. Banks' projected (second) voyage with Capt. Cook. This volume contains draft letters to the Admiralty, giving his reasons for not going; also a letter from Capt. Cook.
- 62 ——— Letters (part of a collection) written by Governor Phillip to Sir Joseph Banks, 1787-1796.
- 63 ——— Letters (part of a collection) written by Governor Hunter to Sir Joseph Banks, 1795-1802.
- 64 ——— Letter from Capt. Waterhouse to Sir Joseph Banks. Sydney, 1795.
- 65 ——— Letter from Robert Brown, Botanist, to Sir Joseph Banks. Sydney, 1804.
- 66 ——— Project for supplying New South Wales with a circulating medium by Sir Joseph Banks, 1805, with acknowledgment from the Office for Trade.
- 67 ——— Letter from Captain Franklin, afterwards Sir John Franklin, to Lady Banks, with piece of a canoe.
- 68 ——— Letters (part of a collection) relating to the fitting out and voyage of the ship *Bounty*, commanded by Lieut. Bligh. Written by Lords Howe, and Sydney, Lieut. Bligh, and others.
- 69 ——— Letters (part of a collection), written by Rev. Richard Johnson, Australia's first preacher, 1787-1790.
- 70 Hakluyt's Voyages (black letter). London, 1599-1600.

Exhibited by the UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE.

Issues of the old Printers.

- X 71 Jenson, Venice: Agricultural books. M. Cato, M. T. Varro, Columella, Palladius (editio princeps). 4to., 1472.
 Paper soft, large capital at p. 1 of Cato, illuminated partially; gold capitals throughout, by hand in red and blue for alternate paragraphs, red clear, blue faded. No pagination, no title. Colophon to each author. Has been repaired at back before binding. Vellum cover and bands.
- 72 Giunti, Florence: Ovid, *Metamorphoses*. 8vo., 1522.
 Italics; leaves numbered; strong bands. Editor's address to L. Tornabuoni; protest against plur. *Metamorphoses*, which, however, is printed in the heading of Book 1.
- 73 Aldus and Andreas, Venice: Valerius Flaccus. 8vo., 1523.
 Italics; leaves numbered; catchword on left page.
- 74 Colinaeus, Paris: *Stroziolorum Poemata*. 8vo., 1530.
 Italics; leaves numbered; figure of Time. Address of Aldus Man. to Lucretia Borgia.
- 75 R. Stephanus, Paris: Lucan. 8vo., 1545.
 Italics; olive-tree; no colophon.

- 76 H. Stephanus (2), Paris : *Anacreon*. Sm. 4to., 1554.
Editi3 princeps ; clear type.
- 77 ——— *Anacreon and other Greek lyrics* : 5in. x 2½in. ; 1556.
No place ; Italics for Latin versions. These by H.S., Elias Andreas and others ; among whom G. Buchanan, 299, 319, 407 ; T. Moore, 405 ; Melanchthon, 409.
- 78 Froben, Basel : *Erasmus, Spongia adv. aspergines Hutteni*. Sm. 8vo., 1523 (?).
Italics ; every capital marked with red ; leaves numbered ; catchwords ; v short title ; no colophon, n.d. ; vellum cover and bands. Editor's protest against violence in either party.

Exhibited by the TRUSTEES of the PUBLIC LIBRARY OF VICTORIA.

- 79 Bible. Early German translation. Fol. Augsburg (Günther Zainer, 1473 ?).
Zainer (1468-77) was the earliest printer in Augsburg, and began the use of wood-cuts for book illustration in 1471-75. Into each of the large initial capitals in this work, a picture has been introduced. Pagination and head-lines are said to have been first used in 1470-71.
- 80 Nuremberg Chronicle. Fol. Nuremberge, 1493.
This is Hartmann Schedel's *Liber Chronicarum*, usually known under the above title.
- 81 Aphthonius, Sophista. In hoc volumine haec continentur Ansonii (*i.e.*, Aphthonii), *Praeludia, Hermogenis Rhetorica* [Ed. by B. di Giunta]. 8vo., Florentiae, In aedibus Philippi Juntae, 1515.
The text is Greek ; the title-page is a label-title, and there is no pagination. From the press of Filippo Giunta (died 1519), the founder of the family, whose mark appears at the end.
- 82 Virgilius Maro, Publius. *Opera. Mauri Servii Honorati in eadem commentarii*. . . . *Castigationes et varietates Virgilianae lectionis per J. Pierium Valerianum*. 2 pts., fol. Parisiis. R. Stephanus, 1529-32.
The printer was also the editor of the volume. The printing press was introduced into Paris in 1470, only four years before its introduction into England. The Stephanus, Estienne, or Estienne family are the most notable of the 16th century Paris printers.
- 83 Chaucer, Geoffrey. The workes of Geffroy Chaucer, newly-printed, with dyvers workes which were never in print before, etc. (Ed. by W. Thynne.) Fol. Lodon, T. Godfray, 1532.
The first edition of the entire works of Chaucer published, with the exception of the *Ploughman's Tale*, which was first printed in the edition of 1542.
- 84 Brant, Sebastian. *Stultifera navis qua omnium mortalium narratur stultitia*. . . . The ship of fooles, wherein is shewn the folly of all states, with divers other works adioyned unto the same, very profitable and fruitfull for all men. Translated out of Latin into English by Alexander Barclay, priest. (Latin and English. The Latin version by J. Locher.) Fol. London, John Cawood, 1570.
- 85 Celestial Globe, which belonged to Captain Cook.
- 86 View of Sydney in 1800.
- 87 Sketch-book of Ludwig Becker, who accompanied the Burke and Wills Expedition, 1860-61.

- 88 Last words written by Burke, June, 1861.
- 89 Last note written by Wills, 30th May, 1861.
- 90 Narrative of an Expedition to Furneaux Islands on the coast of New South Wales in the Port Jackson Colonial schooner "Francis," by Matthew Flinders, 2nd lieutenant of H.M.S. Reliance, March, 1798. The MS of Flinders presented by his daughter, Mrs. Petrie.
- 91 Field book of John Helder Wedge, containing his diary, notes and sketches, made whilst surveying in Port Phillip from August 13 to October 27, 1837.
- 92 John Batman's Journal of his Expedition from Launceston to Port Phillip, from May 10th to June 6th, 1835.
- 93 Deed of Grant of the territory called Dutigalla, comprising about 500,000 acres, made June 6th, 1835, by the chiefs of the native tribe of Dutigalla, in favour of John Batman.
- 94 The Melbourne "Advertiser," Port Phillip, Australia, No. 1: written for and published by John P. Fawcner, January the 1st, Monday, 1838. Melbourne, Vol. 1st.
The first number of the first newspaper issued in Melbourne. The "Port Phillip Gazette," however, was the first legally published.
- 95 Holograph letter of Lord Melbourne.
- 96 Original MS of a "Fragment" by Lord Byron.
- 97 Autograph note by the Duke of Wellington.

Exhibited by the SYDNEY MECHANICS' SCHOOL OF ARTS.:

- 98 History of the Life and Reign of Queen Anne (Boyer), 1722.
- 99 Lives of the Three Norman Kings, William I. and II. and Henry I. (Haymond), 1619.
- 100 Isocratis Onationes et Epistolæ, 1651.
- 101 Hippocratis Aphorismi. Graece et Latini, 1615.
- 102 Cornelii Taciti Opera, 1648.
- 103 General history of the Magnificent State of Venice to 1612]: Trans. by Shute, 1612.
- 104 Memoir of the Court of Spain, 1682.
- 105 Defoe, D. Plague of London: Journal of the Plague Year, 1665: London, 1722.
- 106 Memoir concerning affairs of Scotland, 1703-7.
- 107 Hawkesworth's account of the Voyages in the Southern Hemisphere, 3 vols., 1773.
- 108 Voyage to the South Seas and Round the World, 1708-11 (Capt. E. Cooke), 1712.
- 109 Voyage towards the South Pole and Round the World (Capt. J. Cook), 2 vols., 1777.
- 110 Voyage to the Pacific Ocean, 1776-80 (Capts. J. Cook and J. King), 3 vols., 1785.
- 111 Voyage Round the World, 1785-88 (La Perouse), 3 vols., 1798.
- 112 Account of the English Colony of N.S.W. (Collins), 1798.

- 113 Journal of Capt. Cook's last Voyage to the Pacific Ocean, 1776-9.
London, 1781.
- 114 Phillip's Voyage to Botany Bay, 1789.
- 115 History of New Holland (Barrington), 1787.
- 116 "The Observer" (London), 1791.
- 117 "Australasian Chronicle," 1839-40.
- 118 "Australian, The," Oct.-Dec., 1824.
- 119 "Colonist, The," Sydney, 1835.
- 120 "Atlas, The" (weekly), Sydney, 1844-5.
- 121 "Gleaner, The," Sydney, 1827.
- 122 "Monitor, The," Sydney, 1826.
- 123 "Sydney Times, The," Sydney, 1834.
- 124 "Observer, The," Sydney, 1841.
- 125 "Omnibus," Sydney, 1841.
- 126 "N.S.W. Examiner," Sydney, 1842.
- 127 The Compleat Chymical Dispensatory (Schroder), 1669.
- 128 The Pantheon (5th Edition) 1709.

Exhibited by COLEMAN P. HYMAN, Esq.

- 129 Collection illustrating the History of Australasian Currency.
- 130 Autographs—

Hon. Sir Alexander McLeay, F.R.S., F.L.S., M.L.C., Colonial Secretary,
1825-1837.

Hon. Sir Edward Deas Thomson, K.C.M.G., C.B., M.L.C.

Sir Thos. Livingstone Mitchell, D.L.C., Surveyor-General.

Hon. George R. Nicholls, M.L.C., Auditor-General in the first Ministry
under Responsible Government.

Hon. John Hubert Plunkett, Q.C., M.L.C., Solicitor-General, 1832;
Chairman of Commissioners of National Schools.

Hon. Sir Julian E. Salomons, Q.C., M.L.C.; Receipt for cash by "Julian
E. Solomons," as Secretary, Sydney Hebrew Congregation. He
resigned the position on 1st August, 1857.

Charles Dibdin, Dramatist and Song Writer, 1745-1815.

Isaac Nathan, Composer and Song-writer.

The Hon. Sir Henry Parkes, K.C.M.G., &c.

The Right Hon. Sir George Grey, Bart, K.C.B., D.C.L., L.L.D., P.C.

Sir J. H. Lefroy, K.C.M.G., C.B., F.R.S., Administrator of the
Government of Tasmania, 1880.

The Right Hon. Sir John Eldon Gorst, M.A., P.C., Q.C., M.P. At one time
New Zealand Government Agent in Sydney.

Sir Moses Montefiore, Bart., F.R.S. First Jew knighted by the Queen.

Baron Lionel de Rothschild. First Jewish M.P.

The Right Honorable Sir Julian Goldsmid, Bart., P.C., M.A., M.P., &c.,
Vice-Chancellor London University. Born 1838, died 1896.

Sir Philip Magnus, B.A., B.Sc., &c., President City and Guilds of London
Technical Institute.

131 Acts of Parliament.

BRITISH.

8 and 9 Victoria, Cap. LII.—“An Act for the Relief of Persons of the Jewish Religion elected to Municipal Offices,” 1845.

9 and 10 Vic., Cap. LIX.—“An Act to Relieve Her Majesty's Subjects from Certain Penalties and Disabilities in Regard to Religious Opinions,” 1846. Sec. 2 of this Act made Jews subject to the same Laws as Protestant Dissenters with regard to their Schools, Places of Worship, Education, &c.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

19 Victoria, No. 30. “An Act to Amend and Consolidate the Laws affecting the Solemnization of Marriages,” 1855. Sec. VIII.—Quakers and Jews to be exempt from Provisions of Act, provided that certain conditions be fulfilled.

132 Circular issued by Wm. Bowman, of Richmond, 184—, forwarding a Blank Voting Paper in his favour in connection with the Polling for a Representative in the Legislative Council of N.S.W. (Cumberland Boroughs).

133 Dutch Wood-cuts, illustrating Hebrew Prayer Book. Printed, A.M. 5405, 1644, C.E.

134 The Mishnah. Amsterdam, 1675.

135 “The Voice of Jacob” (*Kole Yankove*). The first Anglo-Jewish Newspaper printed in London. Vol. 1, Sept. 1841 to Sept. 1842.

136 “The Voice of Jacob,” (Sydney Edition), 27th May, 1842. Printed at the “Australian” office, Bridge-street.

137 “The Jewish Chronicle,” London. 1st. vol., 1844.

138 “The Hebrew Review” (Gaalide). 1st. vol., 1834-35.

139 Rules and Catalogue of the Sydney Jewish Library and Hebraic Association, 1848.

140 Book-plates.

141 Engraved Coats of Arms.—Chaucer, Shakespeare, Milton, Pope, Scott.

141a Model Sifare Torah: Scroll of the Law.

142 Sydney Gazettes—

No. 203, Sunday, 1st February, 1807.—Lieutenant-Governor W. Bligh, dined with Governor King on the “Buffalo.”

No. 204, 8th February.—Farewell Dinner; Ball and Supper to Governor King, given by His Excellency Lieutenant-Governor Bligh.

27th August, 1809.—Appointment of Revd. Mr. Cowper to be Assistant-Chaplain of the Settlements in New South Wales. (This was father of Dean Cowper, who still retains office).

6th July, 1811.—Government Public Notice: Warning of punishment of all persons leaving in the streets cars or carts “unattended by any person alongside of the cattle drawing them. Drivers to be on foot to guide and manage the cattle.”

10th August, 1811.—Directions for the Observance of the Prince of Wales, Birthday.

29th May, 1819.—Directions for the Observance of the King's Birthday.

27th January, 1827.—Containing report of a meeting in celebration of “Australia's 39th Anniversary,” and Mr. W. C. Wentworth's speech in support of a Petition to the King for Trial by Jury and Taxation by Representation.

Sydney Gazettes—Continued.

15th June, 1827.—Containing Proclamation by the King, appointing D'Arcy Wentworth, Jno. Thos. Campbell, Jno. Harris, Ch. Throsby, J. Bowman, Alex. Berry, J. and Wm. MacArthur, Geo. Innes, Thos. Walker, Hy. Grattan Douglas (and others, to a large number), Justices of the Peace.

"The Colonist," 10th January, 1838.—Article on the Transportation Committee

"The Englishman, or Sunday Express," No. 481.—31st December, 1812.

"The Constitution" (London), No. 209, Sunday, 31st December, 1815.—Containing Review of the Year, and intelligence of the arrival of Napoleon at St. Helena.

"The Daily Commercial and General Advertiser," Calcutta, 27th February, 1817.

Exhibited by the REV. DR. SELLORS.

143 Bible (Latin)

The name of printer and place of printing not mentioned. Date of printing 1479 given after the Apocalypse, and followed by a table of Epistles and Gospels. One of the very first of the "Fontibus ex Græcis" editions.

144 Guicciardino, L. Belgii Descriptio, Amsterdam, 1660.

145 A'Kempis, Thomas. De Imitationi Christie. 1613.

146 Plautus. 1598.

Exhibited by Miss THRELKELD.

147 Bible (Breeches). "Imprinted at London by Christopher Barker, Printer to the Queen's Majestie," 1581.

Date of printing given at the beginning of the New Testament.

Exhibited by HARRY STOCKDALE.

148 Handle of the Stockwhip used by Mr. W. H. Hill, when he brought in from Mount Abundance the last despatches received from Leichhardt.

Aboriginal Widow's Mourning Cap, weight 8lb., from near junction of Darling and Murray Rivers.

Aboriginal Water Vessel, belonging to the Narrinyuerri tribe, on the Corrong, S.A.

Massive Spear Head, Melville Island.

Spear, Northern Australia.

Stone Fighting Knife.

Glass Fighting Knife.

Glass Rasper or Groover.

Glass Knife used in secret rite, N. Central Australia.

Pencil-line Sketch of Stockdale on horseback, by A. L. Gordon, 1864.

Exhibited by Miss MACDONALD, M.A.

149 Plautus. Biponti, 1788.

150 Velleius Paterculus, C. Leyden, 1719.

Bound in vellum in the antique fashion. and tied with ribbons.
Engraved title-page.

Exhibited by PROF. E. E. MORRIS, M.A.

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- 177 Maundrell, Henry. Journey from Aleppo to Jerusalem, 1697. 8vo., Oxford, 1714.
- 178 Cæsar. 8vo., Elzevir, 1661.
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152 Log-book of Captain Cook on board H.M.S. "Eagle," 27th June, 1755
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153 Engraving of Sir Joseph Banks, from picture by Benjamin West.

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154 Erasmus, D. *Colloquia Familiaria*. 18mo. Roterodami, 1693.

155 Raleigh, Sir Walter. *Remains*. London, 1661.

First collection of minor miscellanies.

156 Morris, Wm. The. *Wood beyond the World*. Hammersmith, 1894.
Specimen of printing at the Kelmscott Press; in "Troy Type": frontis-
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157 Autograph Letters of Dr. Jenner, Prof. Max Muller, Dr. L.
Leichhardt, Sir J. Banks. Appointment of Mr. Scott as Warden,
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157a Coloured Photographs of Japanese Scenery.

157b Two Albums of Photographs of people of note who have been in
Australia.

157c Danger's Index and Directory to the River Hunter, N.S.W. London,
1828.

157d New South Wales Sporting Magazine, Nov.—Dec., 1848.

157e Rules of Australian Race Committee, 1840.

157f Autograph of Sir Robert Peel.

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157h Invitation to Government House, Sydney, 1836.

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158. Boccaccio, G. *De Decameron de Bocace*. Ashburnham Collection, 1579.

159 Raleigh, Sir W. *History of the World*. London, 1665.

160 *Etat Present de Moscovie*. Paris, 1718.

161 Parry, Lady (wife of the Arctic explorer), Autograph of, 1851.

162 Three Shilling Note of the American Colonies, 1776.

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- 163 Relation of remarkable passages in the two embassies from the East India Companies of the United Provinces to the Viceroy Singlamon and Gen. Taising Lipori, and to Conchi, Emperor of China and East Tartary, with dedication to Charles II. 1671.
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- 168 Cappel, Jacques. Les Livres de Babel. Sedan, 1625.
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181 Library Appliances and Furniture, Handbooks and Rules for Cataloguing.

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Three drawer slide cabinet, with cards.	Libraco pamphlet case.
Marlborough card catalogue case, with linen cards, and A-Z index.	Bowry newspaper holder.
Library accession book.	Lyle newspaper holder.
Library register book.	Glass topped boxes.
Periodicals register book.	Label holder, with paper label.
Museum accessions book.	" " " metal " .
Library sign writer, Set "A."	Opal tablet.
Brown's Manual of Library Classification.	Book supports, Nos. 2 & 3.
Marlborough case, No. 1, for pamphlets, &c.	Catalogues.
	Specimen copies of the "Library World."
	Card tray.
	Museum labels.
	Label rests.

Exhibited by H. G. TURNER, Esq., Melbourne.

182 "The Cherokee Phoenix," a weekly paper published by the Cherokee Indians at New Echota, 1828-31.

Partly in the Indian language, and partly in English. Suppressed by the State of Georgia in 1833.

183 Currency Note of Robert Owen's Equity Labour Exchange.

184 "The Inquirer," a Western Australian Journal of Politics and Literature. No. 1. Wednesday, Aug. 5, 1840.

Exhibited by G. JESSON, Esq., Glebe.

- 185 Hammond, H., D.D. Paraphrase and Annotations of the Books of the New Testament. Oxford, 1571.

Exhibited by C. H. STARKEY, Esq.

- 186 Shakespeare, W. Julius Caesar, translated into Japanese.

Exhibited by J. C. H. BAASS, Esq.

- 187 Family Bible, printed in Wittenberg, 1664.

Exhibited by the REV. SAMUEL ELLA.

- 188 Howell, Lawrence, M.A. A Compleat History of the Holy Bible. 3 vols., London, 1725.

Profusely illustrated by curious quaint engravings.

- 189 Pluche, Abbé N.A. Nature Displayed. 3 vols. Antique illustrations.

Exhibited by DR. F. MILFORD.

- 190 Dalrymple, John. Pathology of the Human Eye. 4to., Lond., 1854. Beautifully finished coloured plates.

Exhibited by MRS. A. WADE, Ashfield.

- 191 Original Grants of Arms by Henry VIII. and Edward VI.

Exhibited by JOSIAH MULLENS, Esq., Burwood.

- 192 Prisse d'Avennes, E. Histoire de l'Art Egyptien. 2 vols. Specimen of printing of French Government.

- 193 The Hieratic Papyrus of Rameses III., 20th Dynasty, circa B.C. 1180. Specimen of British Museum printing.

Exhibited by C. CAMERON, Esq., Kiama.

- 194 Flavel, Rev. J. The Whole Works of. 2 vols., fol., Lond., 1673.

Exhibited by A. DE LISLE HAMMOND, Esq., M.A., J.P., Yarra Station.

- 195 Illustrated French Bible. Lyons, 1561.

One of the earliest with the division into *verses*. The Scriptural Books are preceded by S. Jerome's Epistle, and followed by a Glossary.

- 196 Sunday and other Sermons, by Jeremy Taylor, Chaplain to Charles I., and Bishop of Down. 1666-1668.

For date 1666, see page 123 of 2nd part (title page of Funeral Sermon over the Primate of Ireland).

- 197 Cases to recover Dissenters. Vol. 1., 1682-85.

A set of 17th century pamphlets.

- 198 The Ethics of Aristotle. Vol. 1, Oxford, 1716.

- 199 The Gospels of SS. Matthew and Mark, in Greek.

No date, but a previous owner has written the date 1727 on the cover.

- 200 The Iliad of Homer. Vol. 1, London, 1794.

- 201 French Classical Atlas, illustrating one of d'Anville's works. The plates date from 1758. Paris, 1819.

Exhibited by the TRUSTEES of the NATIONAL ART GALLERY OF N.S.W.

- 202 1 Water-colour drawing : Arrest of Governor Bligh, 1808.
 2 Lance-Corporal Marlborough's evidence, *re* Arrest of Governor Bligh, 1808.
 3 Petition to Lieutenant-Governor Johnston. 26th January, 1808.
 4 Address to Lieutenant-Governor Johnston, 27th January, 1808.
 5 Colonel Johnston's Sword.
 6 Colonel Brotheridge's Sword.
 7 Colonel Johnston's Field Glass.
 8 Colonel Johnston's Military Cane.
 9 Ivory Coupling, turned by Henry Parkes for Colonel Johnston.
 10 Pair of Pistols used by Sir Peter Parker, Bart., at night attack on Moorfield.
 11 Photo. of Medallion by Wedgewood, from clay taken from Sydney Cove, 1789.
 12 Cast—Medallion Portrait, Admiral Phillip G. King, by T. Woolner.
 13 Cast : Medallion Portrait of Captain Cook—Wedgewood.
 14 Bronze Medallion Portrait of W. C. Wentworth—T. Woolner, 1854.
 15 Bronze Medal—"Products of New South Wales"—1854.
 16 Chaplain's Commission to 91st Regiment, 1779—George III.
 17 to 24 Casts of Gold and Silver Coins (the property of Sir James Proudfoot).
 17 Tray—Period 1 : Archaic Art : circa B.C. 700-480 ; Period 2 : Transitional Art ; circa B.C. 480-400.
 18 Tray—Period 3 : Finest Art ; B.C. 400-336.
 19 Tray—Period 4 : Later Fine Art ; circa B.C. 336-280. Period 5 : Decline of Art ; circa B.C. 280-190.
 20 Tray—Period 6 : Continued Decline ; circa B.C. 190-100. Period 7 : Late Decline ; circa B.C. 100-1.
 21 Tray—Norman Kings, A.D. 1066-1154 ; Saxon Line restored, A.D. 1154-1399.
 22 Tray—House of Lancaster, A.D. 1399-1461 ; House of York, A.D. 1461-1485.
 23 Tray—House of Tudor, A.D. 1485-1603 ; United Houses of York and Lancaster.
 24 Tray—House of Stuart, A.D. 1603-1649 ; Commonwealth, A.D. 1649-1659 ; House of Stuart restored, A.D. 1660-1702.

Exhibited by ADRIAN KNOX, Esq., M.A.

- 203 Beaumont and Fletcher. Works of. London, 1679.
 204 Defoe, Daniel. Robinson Crusoe. First edition, Vol. 1, 1719, Vol. 3, 1720.
 205 Blaxland's Journal of a Tour of Discovery across the Blue Mountains. First edition, 1823.
 206 Rules and Orders of the Governor's Court. Sydney, 1815.
 207 Bradshaw's Railway Guide. Second year of issue, 1840.
 208 Bland, Dr. William. The Bland MS. account of the Duel between William Bland and Robert Case, and of the circumstances that led thereto. Drawn up for posterity by Dr. William Bland.
 209 Johnston, Lieut-Col. Proceeding of a General Court-Martial for the Trial of Lieut-Col. Johnston for deposing Governor Bligh. London, 1811.
 210 Tompson's Wild Notes from the Lyre of a Native Minstrel. Sydney, 1826.
 The second volume of Poetry published in Australia.
 211 Gill, S. T. Sketches and Lithographs, 3 vols.
 212 Martens, Conrad. Original Sketches, 4 vols.
 213 Howe's Commercial Express. Sydney, 1825.
 214 Ham's Views of Mount Alexander.
 215 Lycett's Views in Australia. London, 1824-5.
 216 Fernyhough's Portraits of Aboriginies of N.S.W.
 217 Macle hose's Picture of Sydney and Strangers' Guide to N.S.W. Sydney, 1839.

- 218 Massinger's New Way to Pay Old Debts. 1633.
- 219 Baker's Heads of the People. Sydney, 1847.
- 220 Nixon, Bishop. Twelve Views of Adelaide and its Vicinity. Adelaide, 1845.
- 221 Bligh, Governor. Answer to Certain Assertions *re* Mutiny of the "Bounty." London, 1794.
- 222 Wakefield's New Zealand, with the atlas of plates. 3 vols. 1845.
- 223 Dickens, Charles. Pickwick. The Van Dieman's Land Edition. Launceston, 1837.

Exhibited by Mr. JOSEPH MORROW, Summer Hill.

- 224 Morden, Robert. Geography Rectified, or a Description of the World. Sm. 4to. London, 1688.

Exhibited by Dr. ANDREW HOUISON, Sydney.

- 225 Taylor, Major, of H M. 48th Regiment. Three Panoramic Views of Port Jackson, with Town of Sydney and adjacent Scenery. Engraved by R. Havell and Son. London (n.d.)

These Views, which were prepared by Major Taylor during his residence in Sydney from 1817-22, convey accurate representations of the extensive and magnificent Harbour of Port Jackson. They are the only copies outside the British Museum in existence in the colonies.

Exhibited by the GOVERNMENT PRINTER, Sydney.

- 226 Specimens of Binding and Ruling.

- 227 Bromide Enlargements,

General Post Office; View from top of General Post Office; Principle Staircase, General Post Office; National Park, Soudan Contingent; Distinguished Colonists; Views of Sydney Harbour and Public Buildings.

- 227a Great Seal of New South Wales.

- 227b Forest Flora of New South Wales.

Exhibited by the Hon. P. G. KING, M.L.C.

- 228 "Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser," vol. 1, 4to. Sydney, 1803-4,

The first newspaper published in New South Wales, and printed by G. Howe, a convict, who may well be termed the Caxton of Australia. The only other copy known to exist in Australia is in the Public Library of New South Wales, and has been reproduced by photolithography by the Trustees.

- 229 MS. Journal of Lieut. (afterwards Commander) Philip Gidley King, Governor of N.S.W. 2 vols. 1786-90.

- 230 Holograph Letters:—

- 231 Martin Mason (Founder of Newcastle), 25th February, 1805.
- 231 Lieut-Colonel Paterson (Founder of Launceston), 4th April, 1805.

- 232 Charles Throsby, Early Settler, 16th May, 1805.

- 233 Colonel Collins (Founder of Hobart), 28th September, 1805.

- 234 Revd. S. Marsden, 26th March, 1806.

Holograph Letters—*Continued.*

- 235 Surgeon J. Harris (ancestor of His Worship the Mayor), 25th October, 1807.
- 236 N. Baudin (Commodore of French Discovery Vessels), 12th September, 1802.
- 237 The Right Hon. W. W. Grenville (Secretary of State), 1st February, 1790.
- 238 Sir Joseph Banks (a private letter to Governor King) 8th April, 1803.
- 239 Ensign F. Barrallier (early discoverer), 24th June, 1801.
- 240 William Balmain, Surgeon (after whom the suburb of Balmain was named), 26th March, 1802.
- 241 Nepean, Sir Evan (after whom Nepean River was named), 9 February, 1801.
- 242 King, Gov. P. G.; and Lieut. John Oxley, 21 June, 1807.
- 243 Colnett, James (Capt. of H.M.S. Glatton), 17 March, 1803
- 244 Bunker, E. (Capt. of Ship Albion), 2 October, 1803.
- 245 Pomarey (King of Otaheite), 9 December, 1804.
- 246 Original Plan of Sydney Norfolk Island Circa., 1796.
- 247 Signatures of—Major Geo. Johnston, Richard Atkins, J.A., Thos. Rowley, Thos. Jamison, J. Harris.
- 248 N.S.W. Corps, Paymaster Bill of Exchange and Protest, 1801 and 1808.
- 249 General Orders, 27 March, 1806.
- 250 Ship-masters bond not to carry passengers from Colony, 22 April, 1805.
- 251 Note of hand of Augustus Alt, first Surveyor-General.
- 252 View of Government House, 1805, by G. W. Evans.
- 253 5 Vignette views of Sydney, 1802-1810.
- 254 Portrait of Count Strzelecki.





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255 Holograph Letters:—






- Capt. C. Clerke (of H.M.S. Resolute, during Cook's second voyage), 31 May, 1772.
- 256 Governor Hunter, second Governor of New South Wales, 29 July, 1801.
- 257 Bligh's account of the Mutiny of the Bounty addressed to Sir Joseph Banks.
- 258 Major Rennell, the celebrated Geographer, addressed to Sir Joseph Banks, no date.
- 259 Lieutenant J. H. Tuckey, of H.M.S. Calcutta, 2 March, 1805.
- 260 The Right Honourable Sir Robert Peel, on the territorial limits of New South Wales, addressed to Sir Joseph Banks, 30 November, 1811. (Signature only.)
- 261 The Right Honourable C. F. Greville, the deposition of Bligh, 20th September, 1808.
- 262 Mrs. Bligh (wife of Governor Bligh), 1 February, 1808.
- 263 Invoice of vine plants purchased by Sir Joseph Banks for New South Wales.
- 264 Draft by banks, of letter refusing office in the British Government, February, 1789.

- 265 George Caley, Botanist employed by Sir Joseph Banks at Sydney.
- 266 George Suttor (Early settler) to Sir Joseph Banks, October, 1798.
- 267 N. Maskelyne (Astronomer Royal of England), 3 April, 1801.
- 268 Order of the Navy Board for Scientists to embark on H.M.S. Investigator, 31 March, 1801.
- 269 William Kent (Captain of H.M.S. Buffalo, 1 July, 1801.
- 270 William Westall, R.A. (artist on H.M.S. Investigator), 31 January, 1804.
- 271 Lord Camden (Sec. of State), August, 1804.
- 272 Admiral Louis De Freycinet to Mrs. Macquarie, 28 January, 1824.
- 273 Governor Macquarie, 23 April, 1809.
- 274 Sydney Gazette, 7 January, 1801. Restoration of Governor Bligh.
- 275 Printed remarks by Governor King on the Passage through Bass Strait, 16 April, 1806.
- 276 View of the West Side of Arthur's Vale, Norfolk Island, 1790.
- 277 View of the East Side of Arthur's Vale, Norfolk Island, 1790.
- 278 View of Norfolk Island, May, 1790.
- 279 MSS. Chart signed by Bligh, showing his track in the launch of the Bounty and in H.M.S. Providence, and also Captain Cook's track in the Endeavour.
- 280 4 Sheets (facsimile copies) of Cook's Chart, in the British Museum.
- 281 4 Original views (coloured) of Sydney, by J. Eyre, London, 1810.
- 282 Original Commission of Governor Sir Thomas Brisbane.
- 283 Government and General Order Books, Sept., 1795-Dec., 1797.
- 283a " " " Sept., 1800-April, 1801.
- 283b " " " December, 1801.
- 283c " " " January-July, 1802.
- 283d " " " July 1802-March, 1803.
- 283e " " " March, 1803-Jan., 1804.
- 283f " " " January-October 1804.
- 283g " " " March, 1809-Jan., 1810.
- 284 Chart of Bass Strait, 1801.
- 285 Tracing of Plan of Township of Parramatta, by G. W. Evans, 1813.
- 286 View of West Side of Lord Howe Island, February, 1788.
- 287 Captain Waterhouse's House, Sydney, 1798.
- 288 Original Copy of Grimes's Map of Port Phillip, 1803.
- 289 Tracings of Plan and Elevation of Barracks and Commissariat Store at Sydney, and Granary at Parramatta, 1809.
- 290 MSS. Journal of Lieutenant Oxley, between Bathurst and Lake George, including the country south-west of the Cow-pastures, 17th October to 4th November, 1820.
- 291 MSS. Notebook of James Meehan on Expedition from Sydney to Jarvis Bay March 1813.
- 292 MSS. Account, by W. C. Wentworth, of Discovery of a Pass over the Blue Mountains. May, 1813.
- 293 Ditto, ditto, by Lieutenant W. Lawson.

- 294 MSS. Account, by Lieutenant W. Lawson, of journey from Bathurst to Liverpool Plains, January, 1822.
- 295 MSS. Account, by Allan Cunningham, of his journey to the south-west of Brisbane and Morton Bay in 1828.
- 296 MSS. Account, by James Kelly, of voyage of whale-boat Elizabeth round western coast of Van Diemen's Land in December, 1815.
- 297 Portrait (Old Print) of George Barrington, as he appeared at the Bar of the Old Bailey, 1791.
- 298 Photo. of an original painting of Governor Bligh—the original by J. Russell, R.A., Crayon Painter to George III.
- 299 Photo. of an original painting of Mrs. Bligh, by same artist.
- 300 Photo of Matthew Flinders, R.N.
- 301 Portrait of Governor King, from miniatures
- 302 Portrait of Governor Bligh, ditto.
- 303 Portrait of John Macarthur, ditto.
- 304 Original Letter from ex-Governor King to Governor Bligh, 28th August, 1808. Written with his left hand.
- 305 Printed Instructions to Watchmen and to Constables, November 16 and 18, 1796.
- 306 Letter from Lieutenant-Colonel Paterson to Governor King, 22nd October, 1802.
- 307 Letter, Rev. T. Haweis to Governor King, 31st January, 1803.
- 308 Flinders' Journal, addressed to Governor King from Coupang Bay, 12th November, 1803.
- 309 The First Volunteer Corps : Regulations and Attestations of Officers and Privates, 7th April, 1804.
- 310 Design of Tablets to be erected in St. Phillip's Church. Date, 1804.
- 311 MSS. Journal of James Fleming, King Island and Port Phillip, 1802-3.
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- 312 Replicas (size, 1ft. 4in. x 1ft. 2in.), mounted, of the original sketches of W. Westall, A.R.A., (now in the possession of the Royal Colonial Institute, London), taken during Flinders' voyage in H.M.S. Investigator, 1801, 1802, 1803.
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- 469 Phillip, Capt. Arthur. Photograph of the Church in which Governor Phillip is buried. Photograph of the House in which Governor Phillip died, August 31st, 1814.
- 470 Facsimile of the Copper Plate affixed at Inscription Point, Cape Solander, to Commemorate the Discovery of New South Wales by Captain Cook.
- 471 Public Library of New South Wales. View of the Old Building, circa, 1870.
- 471a ——— Plan of the Old Building.
- 472 Dayes, F. View of Sydney Cove, New South Wales, in 1804.
- 473 Eyre's Views of Sydney (2).
- 474 Engraving of Rear-Admiral Sir James Clark Ross, Arctic Explorer.
- 475 Meehan, Jas. Plan of the Town of Sydney, in New South Wales, 1807. Photographed from the original at the Government Printing Office, Sydney, 1898.
- 476 Bass, George, Portrait of, from a Miniature in the Collection of Mr. Pownall, Solicitor, Russell Square, London.
- 477 Heads of some Sydney Notabilities, 1855-61.
- 478 Davey, Governor. Proclamation to the Aborigines, 1816.
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- 480 Cook, Captain James. Engraving from a Painting by N. Dance.
- 481 Parkes, Sir Henry. Portrait, at the age of 21.
- 482 Banks, Sir Joseph. Portrait, at the age of 80.
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- 484 Johnson, Rev. R., First Chaplain of New South Wales. Portrait.
- 485 Marsden, Rev. Samuel. Portrait.
- 486 Arrest of Governor Bligh, reproduced from the Original. Engraving coloured by hand.
- 487 Blake, W. S. View of the Town of Sydney. Photographed from the Original.
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Contains the first of all our exploration maps. Hunter's Journal, from 1796 to 1800, was published by Collins as the second volume of his work.
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Fine anthropological photos. of Polynesians.
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Bound in tree calf.
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Now very rare. This copy is in excellent preservation.
- 497 Gill, S. T. Victoria Illustrated. Obl. 8vo. Melbourne, 1857.
An Album of 45 beautiful engravings, drawn by S. T. Gill, and cut principally by J. Tingle, of scenes in Victoria in the early days.
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Of great local interest on account of the topographical descriptions. On the outline map of Port Jackson, the headland now known as Blue's Point appears as Billy Blue's Point. Other changes will be noticed on looking through the volume. Darling Point was then known as Mrs. Darling's Point.

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A specimen of one of the first efforts of printing and engraving in Australia,
- 538 Brisbane, Sir Thomas Makdougall. *Reminiscences of*; by Rev. William Tasker. With portrait. Sm. 4to., Edinburgh, 1860.
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- 560 Nixon, Rev. Francis Russell. *Photographs of the Aborigines of Tasmania*. Fol., Hobart. (n.d.)
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- 563 *Photographic Album of Australian Writers*.
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- 566 West, A. Views of New South Wales, 1813-14; [plates engraved by W. Preston, from drawings by J. Eyre and others]. 4to., Sydney, 1883-84.
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Contains views of Sydney and other parts of N.S.W.

- 607 Lycett, J. Views in Australia or New South Wales and Van Diemen's Land, delineated. Coloured illustrations. Ob. 8vo., London, 1824.
- 608 South Australia. Photographic Views. 2vols., 4to.
- 609 Stack, Major Frederick R. Views of the Province of Auckland, New Zealand. Fol., London (n.d).
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- 611 Shakespeare, W. First Fol. Edition of his Works. Fol., London, 1623.

[REDACTED] First collected edition of Shakespeare's plays ; it contains all the usual 36 Plays, except "Pericles," and has preserved to us 17 not previously printed ; published by his fellow-actors, Heminge and Condell, seven years after his death. Ben Jonson contributed memorial verses. The edition is extremely rare. The casket is made of oak grown in the historic Forest of Arden. Presented to the Public Library of New South Wales by Sir Richard Tangye. Copy recently sold for £880.

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613 Hebrew Manuscripts.

614-16 Books of Autographs (3).

617 Gould, John. Birds of Australia, and Supplement. 8 vols., fol., London, 1848-69.

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619. Shakespeare, W. Works of. Boydell's edition.

620. Innocent III., Pope. Works of, with portrait.



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LIBRARY ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALASIA.

APPENDIX, 1898.

LIBRARY ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALASIA.

Finances and Number of Members of Schools of Art, Mech:
thereto on

Name.	Date of Establish- ment.	Subscription for 1897.		Subsidies received from Govern ^{ment}		
		Building Fund.	Maintenance Fund.	Total to 30th June, 1897.		For the Year
				For Erection of Building.	For Maintenance	
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Aberdeen	School of Arts ..	April, 1892	5 0 0	20 11 6	281 2 11	7 6 0
Adamstown	Mechanics' Institute ..	Jan., 1879	*	*	86 16 3	976 12 7
Adelong	Literary Institute ..	*	*	*	71 0 4	638 5 10
Albury	Mechanics' Institute ..	*	*	*	692 9 6	1,041 14 5
Alstonville	School of Arts ..	May, 1896	5 17 6	*	3 3 9	*
Anvil Creek	" ..	Oct., 1879	*	*	171 5 9	*
Armidale	" ..	Estab. 1859	110 9 5	*	229 1 9	*
Bearami	" ..	Reform. 1895	*	*	140 18 3	*
Balgownie	" ..	— 1895	6 12 0	102 13 3	*	*
Ballina	" ..	April, 1897	18 2 10	*	*	*
Balmain	" ..	— 1887	35 1 4	89 18 3	215 10 5	*
Balmoral	Working Men's Insti- tute.	— 1868	1 1 0	161 0 11	18 14 0	452 2 0
Balranald	School of Arts ..	*	*	*	195 3 9	*
Barraba	Mechanics' Institute ..	— 1893	*	110 6 2	117 9 2	*
Bathurst	Mechanics' School of Arts.	Aug., 1855	273 2 0	587 6 11	2,860 6 2	*
Batlow	Literary Institute ..	July, 1896	3 15 9	95 4 6	62 12 9	913 2 9
Bega	School of Arts ..	July, 1878	*	43 10 0	*	*
Bellbrook	" ..	*	12 6 6	17 19 6	36 17 6	36 17 6
Bellinger Heads ..	" ..	June, 1896	12 6 6	9 18 4	98 2 0	18 5 3
Bena	Public Library ..	Mar., 1893	*	10 10 4	43 18 0	*
Bermagui	School of Arts ..	June, 1897	48 17 10	*	182 11 5	82 0 9
Berrigan	" ..	*	*	23 9 2	213 8 1	*
Berrima	" ..	Jan., 1888	*	29 10 6	229 1 1	*
Berry	" ..	Aug., 1890	*	*	72 7 7	134 13 2
Bingara	" ..	*	*	7 4 0	65 13 0	9 13 6
Birganbigil	" ..	Feb., 1894	5 2 6	1 10 0	34 0 0	*
Black Range	" ..	— 1898	*	*	53 13 8	*
Blayney	" ..	*	*	*	690 12 5	1
Bombala	" ..	*	*	14 11 3	745 14 6	1
Botany	" ..	— 1867	*	91 5 2	780 9 6	4
Bourke	Mechanics' Institute ..	— 1872	9 5 0	5 0 0	105 0 0	9 5 0
Bowna	" ..	July, 1895	*	21 11 0	1,041 3 11	4
Bowral	School of Arts ..	*	*	71 4 2	876 6 6	3
Braidwood	Literary Institute ..	Feb., 1858	*	9 9 0	49 18 4	*
Branxton	Mechanics' Institute ..	— 1862	*	48 19 6	1,029 1 2	1
Brewarrina	School of Arts ..	— 1878	*	10 12 9	193 18 1	80 13 10
Broadmeadow	Mechanics' Institute ..	June, 1892	54 11 0	4 11 0	*	*
Brooklehurst	" ..	Oct., 1897	227 17 0	*	118 12 6	3 2 6
Broken Hill	" ..	— 1891	*	*	30 8 10	*
Brunswick	School of Arts ..	*	*	2 15 0	79 18 3	11 6 10
Brushgrove	" ..	Jan., 1893	*	5 2 0	31 19 10	14 11 1
Bulga	" ..	Dec., 1881	*	14 12 0	*	95 3 6
Bulladelah	" ..	— 1863	*	21 0 0	50 7 0	146 9 5
Bundarra	" ..	May, 1894	*	14 3 9	73 14 0	59 14 10
Bungendore	" ..	June, 1888	*	4 9 0	38 1 3	28 1 3
Burrangan	Mechanics' Institute ..	April, 1897	*	268 18 6	64 10 11	2
Burrows	" ..	*	*	154 19 0	1,244 6 6	96
Burwood	School of Arts ..	*	*	24 3 0	50 13 0	24 7 11
Byron Bay	" ..	Nov., 1892	*	40 7 7	559 7 10	11
Camden	" ..	— 1858	*	271 6 11	211 5 11	1
Candelo	" ..	Jan., 1884	*	7 3 6	181 17 7	34 8 9
Canowindra	School of Arts and Agricultural and Mining Institute.	Oct., 1889	*	*	20 15 6	64 17 7
Captain's Flat	Mechanics' Institute ..	*	*	*	515 10 4	598 6 3
Carcoar	School of Arts ..	July, 1889	*	9 17 0	98 10 6	86 5 10
Casino	" ..	— 1875	*	133 1 6	223 5 5	45 6 0
Cathcart	" ..	— 1890	*	*	200 19 7	117 1 3
Charlestown	Literary Institute ..	*	*	13 1 7	367 6 7	163 17 3
Clarence Town ..	School of Arts ..	— 1880	*	*	60 12 9	65 14 7
Clifton	" ..	*	*	*	42 16 0	83 19 4
Cobar	" ..	*	*	*	*	*
Cobargo	" ..	*	*	*	*	*
Collarenebri	" ..	*	*	*	*	*
Collector	" ..	May, 1896	*	*	*	*
Colombo	" ..	*	*	*	*	*

* Information not available.

† See

APPENDIX, 1898.

Institutes, &c., for 1897; also, Number of Volumes in Libraries attached April, 1898.

Expenditure for Books, &c.		Members of Institution for 1897.	Classification of Volumes in the Library on the 30th April, 1898.											
Since Establishment of Library.	During 1897.		Natural Philosophy, Science, and the Arts.	History, Chronology, Antiquities, and Mythology.	Biography and Correspondence.	Geography, Topography, Voyages, Travels, &c.	Periodical and Serial Literature.	Jurisprudence, Political Economy, Social Science, &c.	Theology, Moral and Mental Philosophy, and Education.	Poetry and Drama.	Works of Reference.	Prose Works of Fiction.	Books not classified.	Total.
£ s. d. 40 0 0	£ s. d. NIL	64	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	350	50	400
...	...	107	...	169	237	71	...	...	...	38	75	2,217	...	2,807
...
11 12 1	4 6 0	17	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	4	219	...	225
...	NIL	24	50	100	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	750	...	900
134 4 8	64 0 1	179	106	186	99	181	...	...	...	40	95	1,333	...	2,040
20 4 0	2 11 0	22	...	...	3	...	...	6	...	...	51	300	50	401
3 5 0	3 5 0	30	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12	125	...	148
...	7 10 0	44	30	73	40	32	...	...	...	23	...	716	32	946
127 8 6	31 13 8	335	40	10	42	58	...	58	37	23	18	1,600	45	1,931
...
57 11 0	5 0 0	27	...	10	...	...	...	35	...	...	14	840	...	899
7,997 13 6	195 17 9	543	792	910	876	992	2,656	...	...	377	507	6,052	759	13,921
10 0 5	4 10 6	30	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	204	...	206
579 4 3	6 6 0	119	173	235	114	75	...	...	...	62	141	2,524	567	3,891
...
12 17 6	9 18 0	53	...	...	...	20	...	...	...	...	...	148	42	210
26 0 8	4 4 0	25	3	6	...	...	...	13	...	7	...	254	...	283
10 10 7	10 10 7	45	6	...	34	40	...	...	...	...	...	136	...	216
...
194 11 0	16 12 3	32	...	35	21	66	54	...	...	49	20	1,185	84	1,514
...	11 13 8	52	55	50	43	30	152	69	58	78	3	614	...	1,152
26 15 9	7 2 8	26	21	...	8	7	50	...	...	8	6	246	72	418
...	1 0 0	12	...	...	...	2	...	1	...	...	...	23	6	32
...
...	3 18 1	63	...	19	23	33	...	...	...	22	25	868	198	1,188
1,000 0 0	30 0 0	120	96	138	91	94	74	...	...	100	50	1,377	...	2,020
...	...	12	...	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	7	70	...	80
1,728 14 4	18 6 0	89	146	240	148	252	...	...	...	126	...	3,863	370	5,145
...	...	36	...	...	19	...	...	...	...	...	100	268	57	444
...	8 1 10	49	46	26	...	...	...	...	...	13	69	623	174	942
21 3 0	...	46	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	210	...	210
4 2 6	4 2 6	20	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	90	...	90
740 13 2	126 0 0	404	95	56	80	125	...	...	...	97	...	1,987	370	2,810
...
4 10 0	...	20	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	80	60	60	200
...	2 19 0	75	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	140	...	140
126 14 4	...	44	...	30	8	21	12	32	43	10	...	344	...	500
15 0 0	4 3 6	48	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	150	150
62 16 7	9 14 7	55	1	2	4	4	14	...	3	3	...	420	...	451
4 6 6	4 6 6	18	...	8	6	4	...	...	...	7	...	60	...	85
...
44 6 0	13 6 4	81	...	...	16	12	13	...	...	13	...	368	...	422
210 0 0	4 6 9	140	79	67	89	68	221	...	35	49	369	1,255	...	2,223
127 9 9	NIL	45	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	800	800
19 12 1	...	20	6	...	...	...	...	...	20	10	...	144	...	180
...
60 0 0	...	...	27	25	9	10	...	40	...	27	20	350	...	538
1297 17 4	11 19 5	79	207	...	226	...	...	...	...	56	75	1,504	63	2,131
40 4 5	10 0 0	16	7	...	20	26	14	...	3	2	...	247	...	321
...
117 16 0	3 0 0	110	24	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	127	42	193
...
8 5 3	4 0 6	27	...	14	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	100	...	114

Since the date of the earliest records.

LIBRARY ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALASIA.

Finances and Number of Members of Schools of Art, Mech

Name.	Date of Establishment.	Subscription for 1897.		Subsidies received from Government.			
		Building Fund.	Maintenance Fund.	Total to 30th June, 1897.		For the Year.	
				For Erection of Building.	For Maintenance.	Building Fund.	
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£
Come-by-chance .. School of Arts ..	*	*	*	134 15 7	9 7 6	.....	.....
Condobolin	" ..	*	*	33 7 8	184 16 3	.....	.....
Coolamon	May, 1893	142 4 3	44 15 9	.....	67 4 6	.....	16
Cooma	" ..	*	40 14 6	195 3 9	359 16 6	.....	30
Coonabarabran ..	" ..	*	*	129 10 10	201 18 1	.....	25
Coonamble	Mechanics' Institute ..	*	*	155 14 9	504 14 9	147 9 3	15
Cootamundra	School of Arts ..	April, 1889	25 2 11	69 18 9	316 5 5	40 11 3	21
Copeland .. ..	" ..	* .....	* .....	.....	196 19 10	.....	.....
Copmanhurst	Mechanics' Institute ..	*	10 17 6	38 18 6	68 8 6	.....	.....
Coraki	School of Arts ..	— 1886	25 5 0	125 9 3	93 17 10	.....	.....
Corowa	" ..	— 1885	257 10 6	137 8 6	1042 7 10	502 12 10	60
Cowra	" ..	*	*	73 10 0	.....	.....	.....
Crookwell .. ..	" ..	* .....	* .....	.....	34 7 6	.....	.....
Cudal	" ..	*	*	355 2 5	56 3 0	.....	.....
Cundletown	" ..	*	*	70 0 0	150 6 0	.....	.....
Deepwater	" ..	*	*	236 5 0	2 14 0	.....	.....
Deniliquin	Mechanics' Institute and School of Arts.	— 1864	.....	134 19 9	908 12 6	1,139 17 8	52
Denman	School of Arts ..	— 1875	2 15 3	9 0 0	23 11 6	88 8 6	.....
Drake	" ..	Sept., 1894	126 1 9	43 0 6	.....	22 10 0	.....
Drummoynie	Mechanics' Institute ..	* .....	* .....	.....	21 13 9	.....	15
Dubbo	" ..	Dec., 1868	.....	90 14 0	.....	711 3 2	35
Dudley	School of Arts ..	Nov., 1895	15 10 10	41 10 5	.....	11 4 9	11
Dungog	" ..	— 1873	55 13 0	31 12 6	.....	312 19 6	.....
East Maitland	Mechanics' Institute ..	— 1859	.....	71 18 6	.....	826 8 6	37
Eden	School of Arts ..	Oct., 1895	1 14 6	7 17 6	84 16 6	7 12 3	.....
Emmore	Institute and Reading-room.	* .....	.....	12 2 0	.....	.....	.....
Ermington .. ..	" ..	* .....	* .....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Eskbank	School of Arts ..	— 1879	.....	54 15 6	.....	187 18 8	.....
Eugowra	" ..	Dec., 1884	29 7 11	15 4 0	81 9 3	189 8 6	11
Finley .. ..	" ..	* .....	* .....	.....	71 13 0	18 0 0	.....
Forbes	" ..	Mar., 1867	.....	111 7 7	73 14 0	718 16 10	32
Forster	Mechanics' Institute ..	Nov., 1877	.....	20 0 0	21 8 3	34 16 6	.....
Galston	School of Arts ..	— 1892	.....	9 19 6	.....	48 11 7	.....
Gannmain	" ..	Mar., 1897	.....	13 9 6	.....	.....	.....
Germanton .. ..	" ..	* .....	* .....	.....	215 0 10	102 2 7	.....
Gilgandra	Mechanics' Institute ..	* .....	* .....	.....	60 19 0	27 9 6	.....
Girilambone	School of Arts and Mechanics' Institute	*	66 8 6	33 4 3	.....	.....	.....
Glen Innes	School of Arts ..	Sept., 1887	25 6 4	48 15 4	197 13 3	327 12 1	25 6 6
Glenreagh	" ..	Jan., 1895	.....	.....	32 7 6	4 14 4	.....
Gosford	" ..	— 1889	.....	27 6 5	363 5 6	154 0 4	36
Goulburn	Mechanics' Institute ..	Oct., 1853	.....	251 16 0	.....	2,070 18 9	122
Grafton	School of Arts ..	— 1865	.....	.....	463 18 9	959 2 3	30
Granville .. ..	" ..	* .....	* .....	.....	.....	478 11 5	13
Grenfell	" ..	— 1882	.....	42 17 0	203 10 0	354 19 11	203 10 0
Gresford	" ..	Nov., 1890	.....	8 5 6	218 6 3	.....	.....
Greta .. ..	" ..	* .....	.....	54 13 8	.....	146 2 11	.....
Gulgarrambone ..	Mechanics' Institute ..	Sept., 1897	.....	23 5 0	62 19 0	7 8 0	.....
Gundaroo	Library and Reading Room.	" 1894	17 18 0	11 7 0	.....	33 4 4	33
Gundagai	Literary Institute ..	Oct., 1863	13 15 11	33 2 6	156 12 2	268 15 11	156 12 2
Gundurimba	School of Arts ..	June, 1893	.....	.....	48 17 3	9 0 8	.....
Gunnedah .. ..	" ..	* .....	* .....	.....	.....	346 4 9	.....
Guyra .. ..	" ..	* .....	* .....	.....	87 16 6	16 13 1	.....
Hamilton	Mechanics' Institute ..	* .....	* .....	.....	977 17 1	779 7 7	.....
Harden	" ..	— 1881	.....	24 18 9	172 4 6	272 8 11	.....
Hargreaves .. ..	" ..	* .....	* .....	.....	.....	15 12 6	.....
Hay	Athenaeum ..	* .....	* .....	.....	.....	835 16 10	.....
Helensburgh	School of Arts ..	July, 1890	3 6 0	33 7 6	57 12 0	65 9 9	.....
Hibbard	" ..	Aug., 1892	.....	18 4 4	.....	13 6 0	.....
Hillgrove	Mechanics' School of Arts ..	June, 1891	.....	75 14 2	372 11 1	187 8 6	42
Hillston	Mechanics' Institute ..	May, 1895	.....	17 0 2	.....	30 8 9	.....
Hinton	School of Arts ..	* .....	.....	12 11 0	.....	139 9 10	.....
Hornsby Junction ..	" ..	May, 1889	24 0 0	52 10 0	12 14 4	41 7 7	.....
Howlong	" ..	Jan., 1893	20 7 7	66 5 11	345 19 6	209 5 3	9 17 3
Humula .. ..	" ..	* .....	* .....	.....	80 9 3	52 1 9	.....
Ingleburn	" ..	April, 1897	.....	4 10 0	.....	15 6 0	.....
Inverell .. ..	" ..	* .....	* .....	.....	.....	280 16 0	.....
Islington	Mechanics' Institute ..	Feb., 1894	.....	30 11 7	253 0 7	459 1 0	.....
Jamberoo	School of Arts ..	April, 1893	1 1 0	.....	133 15 0	37 4 3	136 15 0

* Information not available.

† Since the date of the

utes, &c., for 1897; also, Number of Volumes in Libraries, &c.—*continued.*

Expenditure for Books.		Members of Institution for 1897.	Classification of Volumes in the Library on the 30th April, 1898.											
Elementary.	During 1897.		Natural Philosophy, Science, and the Arts.	History, Chronology, Antiquities, and Mythology.	Biography and Correspondence.	Geography, Topography, Voyages, Travels, Etc.	Periodical and Serial Literature.	Jurisprudence, Political Economy, Social Science, Etc.	Theology, Moral and Mental Philosophy, and Education.	Poetry and Drama.	Works of Reference.	Prose Works of Fiction.	Books not classified.	Total.
s. d.	£ s. d.													
13 2	7 2 8	106		5	5			10		7		452		479
	10 7 3	56											1,189	1,189
6 11	28 14 9	147			60	14	30			25	41	505	183	858
	6 4 10	29											611	611
13 4	8 11 10	37			7	23						320		350
13 7	22 16 6	92	68	63	58	49			13	43		788	126	1,208
3 3	35 14 4	175	108	182	80	124				59		2,283	240	3,085
0 0	9 2 2	23				151				20	50	611	73	905
18 5	14 5 5	95	15	16		36			19			492		578
	26 11 11	135	64	123	173	67			25	54		2,086	190	2,782
0 0	7 2 6	66	26	4		2			14			262		308
2 6	5 2 6	94	181	69	90	53				38		510		941
0 0	20 0 0	125											3,032	3,032
17 0	9 18 7	55		1	2	2					8	290		273
16 6		48										100	100	200
19 3	27 4 10	91											1,299	1,299
12 11	5 1 3	77	18	5	56	53		7		4	14	151		808
18 10	46 9 5	112	38	45	34	65				41	33	1,712	132	2,100
4 4	4 8 4	22	41	85								430	237	793
6 10	4 3 6	41		6		20				10	5	459		500
18 8	10 0 0	57		24	3			1		4		197		229
		91												
6 1	33 6 1	180	34		19	67				30		871	180	1,201
		12												
2 5	14 3 8	68								34		531	199	764
5 3	208 2 7	485	447	572	438	497		437	259	222	544	6,559	312	10,287
3 4	20 0 0	307											3,137	3,137
3 2	6 6 5	74											1,000	1,000
0 0		17			20	12			5	10	30	158	15	250
		70											255	255
16 2	16 17 2	94	9	7								235	16	267
16 9	8 19 6	49			25	51		40				269		385
0 0	13 10 0	81			250	190				78	52	720		1,290
7 6		15	70									40		116
	17 12 11	97											520	520
6 1	6 9 4	142				1				2	4		464	464
3 7	4 16 6	30					93					235		340
17 10	18 13 4	133	31	32		21	81	31		23	30	900		1,149
6 1	17 17 3	37								5		673		678
4 0		38											750	750
7 10	6 12 0	65		20					11			267		298
0 0	10 0 0	50				3				3		541		547
0 0	2 0 0	25	12	12			100			50		126		300
18 0	14 0 0	102		24	37	30	11		47	11		916	160	1,236
15 4		44											928	928

§ Not yet opened.

‡ Expenditure on freehold library only.

Finances and Number of Members of Schools of Art, Mecha

Name.		Date of Establishment.	Subscription for 1897.		Subsidies received from Government.				
					Total to 30th June, 1897.		For the Year 1		
			Building Fund.	Maintenance Fund.	For Erection of Building.	For Maintenance.	Building Fund.	For the Year 1	
			£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Jerilderie	Mechanics' Institute	*	*	*	100 10 2	327 8 11	.....	.....	8
Jerry's Plains ..	School of Arts	*	*	*	113 12 0	124 13 8	.....	.....	10
Jindera	"	May, 1892	*	7 3 6	.....	81 0 5	.....	.....	1
Jugiong	Mechanics' Institute	*	*	43 15 6	30 6 4	.....	.....	7	7
June	School of Arts and Mechanics' Institute.	Aug., 1893	*	24 16 7	.....	63 5 3	.....	.....	7
Kangaroo Valley ..	School of Arts	Aug., 1893	*	*	58 11 7	51 18 2	.....	.....	7
Katoomba	"	*	*	*	144 17 7	.....	.....	7	7
Kenthurst	"	May, 1889	*	9 4 0	65 1 5	16 13 0	.....	.....	2
Kiama	"	*	*	*	40 0 3	.....	.....	3	3
Kiandra	Mechanics' Institute	Feb., 1891	*	4 2 6	13 6 0	25 6 6	.....	.....	6
Kogarah	School of Arts	*	*	360 16 4	487 10 8	.....	.....	20	20
Lambton	Mechanics' Institute	Aug., 1887	*	61 15 0	461 9 0	531 16 9	.....	.....	21
Large	School of Arts	— 1875	*	58 13 2	.....	262 15 7	.....	.....	1
Laurieton	"	*	*	117 3 2	25 13 0	.....	.....	1	1
Lawrence	"	*	*	77 3 0	190 17 7	3 5 6	.....	12	12
Linburn	School of Arts and Library.	Aug., 1896	*	4 13 0	25 0 0	5 1 0	25 0 0	.....	5
Lismore	School of Arts	June, 1880	*	80 2 7	146 15 6	471 19 4	.....	.....	22
Maclean	Mechanics' Institute	1877	*	39 7 6	14 2 0	243 19 4	.....	.....	2
Mandurama	School of Arts	*	*	184 1 8	32 4 2	.....	.....	11	11
Manilla	"	Sept., 1883	*	82 11 0	67 0 0	213 16 11	.....	.....	10
March	"	May, 1892	*	3 2 0	63 19 0	96 13 7	.....	.....	3
Marulan	"	Mar., 1887	*	25 7 0	67 18 4	53 7 6	.....	.....	4
Menangle	"	1893	*	9 5 6	93 6 11	117 18 0	.....	.....	20
Menindie	Mechanics' Institute	— 1892	*	87 0 6	184 15 6	1,039 7 1	.....	.....	5
Merewether	School of Arts	*	*	.....	225 12 0	.....	.....	8	8
Merriwa .. ..	"	*	*	.....	18 3 6	.....	.....	22	22
Meiz	"	Oct., 1897	171 12 3	25 13 9	180 3 0	.....	.....	14	14
Milthorpe	"	*	*	17 16 8	121 16 3	.....	.....	1	1
Milton	"	Sept., 1891	*	19 11 0	.....	231 6 4	.....	22	22
Mittagong	"	— 1886	*	81 16 0	.....	8 6 9	.....	19	19
Moama	"	— 1878	*	38 18 4	19 17 6	402 10 6	.....	.....	1
Molong	"	*	*	36 0 9	32 0 0	.....	.....	22	22
Monkerai	"	— 1884	*	59 11 0	867 5 10	242 10 2	.....	.....	18
Moree	Mechanics' Institute	Nov., 1880	*	23 9 6	68 18 6	308 7 2	.....	.....	10
Moruya	School of Arts	Sept., 1890	*	56 11 0	419 8 3	217 10 11	4 7 6	.....	29
Moss Vale	Reading Room and Library.	Mar., 1891	*	16 8 6	.....	5 8 0	.....	.....	14
Mount Kembla ..	School of Arts	May, 1857	*	*	74 17 6	207 13 11	.....	.....	15
Mudgee	"	*	*	54 6 1	172 15 9	.....	.....	13	13
Mullumbimby ..	Mechanics' Institute	Mar., 1889	*	48 10 0	137 7 9	439 16 9	.....	.....	24
Murrumbidgee ..	School of Arts	*	*	13 16 0	37 2 0	541 14 10	.....	.....	113
Muswellbrook ..	"	Oct., 1896	*	62 3 6	41 6 3	307 9 5	.....	.....	1
Nambucca Heads ..	"	— 1870	*	52 3 11	24 3 3	2,445 18 0	.....	.....	16
Narrabri	Mechanics' Institute	May, 1886	*	844 14 0	.....	.....	.....	60	60
Narrandera	School of Arts	— 1870	*	.....	24 16 6	21 12 4	.....	.....	2
Newcastle Junction ..	"	*	*	.....	216 2 1	.....	.....	12	12
Noorooma .. ..	"	*	*	.....	.....	.....	.....	16	16
North Ryde	Mechanics' Institute	Sept., 1897	*	18 13 0	347 18 1	216 2 1	.....	.....	4
Nowra	School of Arts	*	*	55 0 0	8 6 3	.....	.....	60	60
Nundle	"	— 1862	*	141 2 0	.....	1,677 11 8	.....	.....	2
Oaks .. ..	"	*	*	.....	85 5 8	.....	.....	12	12
Orange	"	Jan., 1884	33 4 0	26 0 0	183 0 0	59 7 0	.....	.....	17
Palmer's Island ..	People's Institute	.....	.....	.....	214 3 3	1,106 15 6	49 13 3	.....	6
Pambula	School of Arts	*	*	199 9 7	185 11 2	.....	.....	12	12
Parkes .. ..	"	.....	.....	23 17 3	98 8 7	.....	.....	32	32
Parramatta	Mechanics' Institute	.....	.....	710 6 3	991 11 6	33 6 6	.....	.....	16
Paterson	School of Arts	.....	.....	35 9 0	101 5 4	207 16 5	.....	.....	2
Picton	"	Mar., 1895	*	5 7 0	33 8 0	5 0 6	.....	.....	23
Plattsburg	"	May, 1887	*	.....	87 8 0	136 19 2	87 8 0	.....	11
Port Macquarie ..	"	.....	*	.....	158 3 10	198 17 3	.....	.....	5
Pyree	"	— 1877	*	.....	251 14 0	205 15 5	.....	.....	133
Queanbeyan	Railway Institute	.....	*	.....	.....	1,480 18 1	.....	.....	20
Quirindi	School of Arts	Oct., 1861	142 16 0	40 17 6	14 1 0	554 7 10	.....	.....	.....

* Information not

APPENDIX, 1898.

7

Institutes, &c., for 1897; also, Number of Volumes in Libraries, &c.—continued.

Expenditure for Books.		Members of Institution for 1897.	Classification of Volumes in the Library on the 30th April, 1898.												Books not classified.	Total
Since Establishment of Library.	During 1897.		Natural Philosophy, Science, and the Arts.	History, Chronology, Antiquities, and Mythology.	Biography and Correspondence.	Geography, Topography, Voyages, Travels, &c.	Periodical and Serial Literature.	Jurisprudence, Political Economy, Social Science, &c.	Theology, Moral and Mental Philosophy, and Education.	Poetry and Drama.	Works of Reference.	Prose Works of Fiction.				
£ s. d.	£ s. d.															
.....	
19 0 0	.....	34	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	131	181
46 2 8	.....	103	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	400	400
60 7 9	9 7 3	70	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	500	500
28 15 0	2 10 0	85	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	810	810
43 14 1	6 5 9	22	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	122	149
175 10 9	2 4 9	88	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	686	2,408
.....	Nil.	53	.....	37	.....	76	24	12	.....	148	210	1,364	272	.....	456
.....	
15 0 0	3 12 6	44	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	20	290	.....	.....	300
.....	53 19 0	96	33	57	64	42	.....	.....	.....	23	.....	1,381	.....	118	1,718
.....	15 17 0	118	41	59	26	23	.....	.....	.....	15	16	65	1,043	75	1,363
121 3 6	12 2 6	60	12	.....	27	42	.....	.....	.....	6	28	.....	286	24	425
23 5 11	0 14 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	80	450
21 19 3	18 0 0	52	16	.....	3	15	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	149	7	190
60 13 4	.....	14	14	9	10	.....	.....	.....	.....	12	1	320	.....	13	379
.....	6 7 4	189	69	.....	99	175	.....	90	53	92	119	1,539	.....	86	2,272
.....	
100 0 0	100 0 0	112	61	.....	50	52	.....	.....	.....	25	.....	633	.....	51	872
127 10 9	22 7 8	50	.....	84	123	108	115	.....	32	45	82	466	.....	62	1,117
45 2 0	.....	68	8	10	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	12	.....	355	.....	.....	385
.....	8 3 6	56	.....	8	.....	60	.....	.....	.....	16	56	700	.....	60	900
217 3 5	19 15 8	59	60	.....	85	.....	.....	27	.....	20	101	643	.....	88	1,024
182 1 8	31 19 1	151	46	.....	.....	21	.....	.....	.....	20	55	1,014	.....	.....	1,156
123 10 6	19 8 9	72	.....	.....	.....	60	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	835	.....	.....	987
122 12 8	25 8 3	64	23	20	20	17	.....	7	13	27	62	1,042	.....	22	1,166
25 0 0	3 11 0	.....	4	2	.....	4	.....	.....	20	16	11	275	.....	.....	286
.....	51 0 8	184	95	89	166	215	.....	.....	171	73	35	3,033	.....	307	4,184
.....	
106 1 8	2 9 9	75	8	28	14	4	.....	5	.....	10	30	617	.....	12	728
4 16 8	4 16 8	70	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	25	187	.....	5	217
1908 1 1	29 19 6	120	55	45	.....	48	.....	.....	.....	31	145	1,420	.....	.....	1,744
159 9 4	5 0 0	80	.....	13	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	927	.....	.....	940
2,600 0 0	113 1 1	636	823	613	862	808	.....	.....	471	246	1,846	7,618	1,332	.....	14,619
.....	
.....	
20 0 0	9 0 0	103	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	50	80	130
1493 0 7	34 9 11	250	236	373	.....	176	300	194	.....	93	.....	2,956	202	.....	4,530
120 0 0	12 0 0	100	26	.....	16	60	.....	.....	.....	10	.....	575	.....	71	758
120 0 0	25 0 0	80	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,002	.....	1,002
.....	
127 14 3	29 7 9	91	13	20	34	23	.....	.....	.....	21	28	753	.....	57	964
102 8 11	22 12 0	76	26	10	24	.....	.....	.....	.....	35	.....	737	.....	.....	844
1 10 0	.....	43	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	596	596
45 5 0	Nil.	91	44	38	22	50	17	.....	43	32	.....	509	.....	.....	755
.....	.....	.....	150	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	
360 12 3	15 12 7	100	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	150	565	565	.....	1,230

Since the date of the earliest records.

LIBRARY ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALASIA.

Finances and Number of Members of Schools of Art, Mech

Name.		Date of Establishment.	Subscription for 1897.		Subsidies received from Government.			
			Building Fund.	Maintenance Fund.	Total to 30th June, 1897.		For the Year	
					For Erection of Building.	For Maintenance		Building Fund.
			£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£
Robertson	School of Arts	— 1886 .....	.....	16 1 6	133 3 6	190 19 2	.....	1
Rockdale	"	Dec., 1897 .....	.....	13 1 0	.....	.....	.....	.....
Rockley	"	*	*	*	289 2 2	3 10 0	.....	.....
Sackville	"	— 1889 .....	.....	.....	89 18 2	.....	.....	.....
Savernake	"	Aug., 1890 .....	.....	.....	71 11 6	3 9 9	.....	.....
Soane	"	— 1872 .....	.....	21 2 0	13 15 3	536 16 3	.....	2
Shellharbour	"	*	*	*	41 9 6	9 13 8	41 9 6	.....
Singleton	Mechanics' Institute	*	*	*	170 10 0	968 6 7	.....	2
Smedmore	"	April, 1894 .....	.....	14 6 6	.....	42 2 10	.....	.....
Sofala	Literary Institute	— 1879 .....	.....	.....	.....	65 10 0	.....	.....
Somersby	School of Arts	May, 1894 .....	.....	3 1 0	10 0 0	.....	.....	.....
South Grafton	"	" 1892	15 15 2	45 9 6	558 14 2	325 0 4	50 15 10	.....
South Woodburn .. ..	" .. ..	* .....	*	* .....	.....	96 6 6	.....	.....
Stewart's Brook	"	June, 1897	49 12 0	17 0 6	.....	.....	.....	.....
St. Leonards	"	*	*	*	154 15 0	638 11 9	.....	4
St. Marys	Mechanics' Institute	*	*	15 11 0	20 1 3	9 17 0	.....	.....
Stockton	School of Arts	April, 1888 .....	.....	50 10 0	.....	772 2 7	.....	9
Stroud	"	*	*	10 15 0	310 14 8	241 10 2	.....	.....
Sydney	Mechanics' School of Arts.	Mar., 1833 .....	.....	1,909 3 9	.....	18,994 8 4	.....	80
Tambar Springs	School of Arts	April, 1892 .....	.....	3 6 0	65 16 0	.....	.....	.....
Tamworth	Mechanics' Institute .. ..	* .....	*	* .....	.....	385 13 0	.....	3
Taree	School of Arts	— 1887 .....	.....	37 12 9	.....	140 8 3	.....	1
Temora	"	July, 1889 .....	.....	13 9 0	.....	158 5 10	.....	.....
Tenterfield	"	*	*	*	133 10 9	749 1 8	.....	2
Teralba	Mechanics' Institute .. ..	* .....	*	* .....	.....	57 4 3	.....	.....
Thackaringa	Public Library	— 1892 .....	.....	4 17 2	.....	35 7 5	.....	1
Thornleigh	School of Arts	— 1891 .....	.....	10 10 11	204 13 7	35 17 9	7 14 9	.....
Tighe's Hill .. ..	" .. ..	* .....	*	* .....	.....	88 9 8	.....	.....
Tocumwal .. ..	" .. ..	* .....	*	* .....	.....	51 9 6	.....	.....
Toongabbie	"	Mar., 1895 .....	.....	24 12 3	.....	20 0 4	.....	1
Toronto	"	Nov., 1894 .....	.....	36 19 0	119 5 0	43 10 1	.....	1
Trades and Industrial Hall and Literary Institute Association	" .. ..	* .....	*	* .....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Tumut	School of Arts	*	*	*	259 14 8	545 8 10	56 2 6	.....
Tweed Heads	"	— 1892 .....	.....	6 16 6	75 19 0	25 9 3	.....	.....
Ullmarra	"	*	*	*	88 0 8	206 9 3	83 7 8	.....
Urana	"	— 1884	15 7 0	9 0 0	298 17 11	170 14 9	.....	1
Vegetable Creek	Mining Institute	May, 1882 .....	.....	7 18 6	.....	378 1 6	.....	.....
Wagga Wagga	School of Arts	— 1863 .....	.....	135 12 8	.....	833 11 4	.....	5
Walcha .. ..	" .. ..	* .....	*	* .....	.....	458 2 3	.....	.....
Walcha Road	"	— 1893 .....	.....	.....	47 0 0	6 8 9	.....	.....
Walgett	"	*	*	29 14 3	573 14 9	168 14 6	.....	1
Wallamba (Nabiac)	"	July, 1897 .....	.....	9 13 6	30 0 0	.....	80 0 0	.....
Wallsend	"	*	*	186 13 0	.....	2,325 5 9	.....	8
Waratah	"	*	*	*	721 12 4	277 4 8	.....	1
Warialda	Mechanics' Institute	Feb., 1883 .....	.....	44 9 8	100 0 0	367 11 0	.....	1
Warren	"	— 1890 .....	.....	10 19 6	75 15 3	258 11 10	.....	1
Wauchope	School of Arts	July, 1895 .....	.....	9 16 10	.....	23 12 10	.....	1
Wee Waa	"	*	*	*	104 17 11	65 11 3	.....	.....
Wentworth	Mechanics' Institute	*	*	*	406 15 11	335 9 6	.....	.....
West Maitland	School of Arts	*	*	*	288 17 0	1,739 3 11	.....	7
West Wallsend	"	Jan., 1893 .....	.....	63 9 0	.....	83 16 7	.....	1
White Cliffs	"	*	*	*	59 8 11	.....	.....	.....
Wickham	"	*	31 18 4	64 4 0	1139 15 6	1,785 2 8	.....	3
Wilcannia	Athenaeum	— 1884 .....	.....	39 14 6	154 11 1	812 18 2	.....	1
Windsor	School of Arts .. ..	* .....	*	* .....	.....	274 4 6	.....	.....
Wingham .. ..	" .. ..	* .....	*	* .....	.....	203 2 2	.....	.....
Wollar	Mechanics' Institute	May, 1896 .....	.....	4 13 0	.....	.....	.....	.....
Wolumba	School of Arts	*	*	*	98 15 9	161 10 10	.....	.....
Wombat	Mechanics' Institute	*	*	*	22 0 6	.....	22 0 6	.....
Woodville	School of Arts	Sept., 1876 .....	.....	5 10 6	.....	48 7 9	.....	1
Woolgoolga	"	*	*	*	23 11 4	9 6 9	.....	.....
Wyalong	"	*	*	*	15 0 11	3 9 9	.....	.....
Wyndham	"	— 1890 .....	.....	8 0 0	38 0 6	90 8 4	.....	.....
Wyrallah .. ..	" .. ..	* .....	*	* .....	.....	52 13 0	.....	.....
Yalwal	"	*	*	*	95 8 6	6 11 10	.....	.....
Yamba .. ..	" .. ..	* .....	*	* .....	.....	27 15 3	.....	.....
Yass	Mechanics' Institute	— 1869 .....	.....	102 12 0	.....	320 4 9	.....	1
Young Wallsend	School of Arts	Aug., 1894 .....	.....	40 13 10	.....	84 1 4	.....	.....

* Information not a

utes, &c., for 1897; also, Number of Volumes in Libraries, &c.—*continued.*

Expenditure for Books.		Members of Institution for 1897.	Classification of Volumes in the Library on the 30th April, 1898.											
Shilling	Penny		Natural Philosophy, Science, and the Arts.	History, Chronology, Antiquities, and Mythology.	Biography and Correspondence.	Geography, Topography, Voyages, Travels, Etc.	Periodical and Serial Literature.	Jurisprudence, Political Economy, Social Science, Etc.	Theology, Moral and Mental Philosophy, and Education.	Poetry and Drama.	Works of Reference.	Prose Works of Fiction.	Books not classified.	Total.
s. d.	£ s. d.													
6 4	13 2 8	33	...	25	..	4	..	..	..	..	400	250	650
0 0	..	46	..	..	20	10	..	..	..	..	56	..	85
..	..	*	*	
14 0	..	16	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	90	..	120
..	28 2 10	74	75	180	75	20	..	50	55	..	1,225	120	75	
..	..	*	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,800
..	..	*	*	
11 10	0 1 6	31	6	..	..	..	..	4	..	..	240	..	250
..	3 0 0	..	20	41	15	..	..	..	6	27	131	..	240
..	..	17	34	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	134	168
0 0	6 16 8	74	..	..	7	..	..	..	..	..	754	43	804
..	..	*	*	
0 0	5 0 0	31	4	..	..	..	..	..	1	18	72	..	95
..	..	*	*	
..	17 2 10	78	..	..	..	30	..	20	10	..	300	..	360
8 8	15 4 7	158	..	27	42	..	..	..	29	..	1,525	168	1,791
..	7 4 8	43	152	249	81	..	..	98	30	..	718	514	1,842
1 6	746 19 1	2,050	2,964	2,157	2,748	2,837	5,500	3,080	..	1,557	..	10,100	2,559	33,502
15 0	Nil.	22	..	..	14	..	..	..	..	..	104	..	118
2 7	7 10 9	88	..	..	..	..	..	..	8	22	564	..	594
..	..	40	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	500	500
..	..	*	*	
..	10 0 0	19	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	835	835
12 10	..	32	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	258	258
..	..	*	*	
1 6	9 6 1	..	25	..	13	11	..	5	9	14	42	415	28	534
18 6	18 16 11	59	..	28	..	..	..	..	..	..	399	13	468
..	..	*	*	
3 2	..	12	..	..	31	..	..	18	6	..	192	..	247
5 2	5 19 5	41	5	22	5	..	..	..	..	..	475	82	589
..	..	20	69	33	30	..	..	..	16	12	766	75	992
..	68 3 9	212	65	..	188	54	..	21	72	154	2,024	97	2,675	
0 0	..	15	10	..	..	..	..	..	..	10	80	..	100
0 0	..	123	12	31	15	19	..	..	33	..	676	..	786
11 8	11 11 8	63	..	..	..	..	..	..	25	119	..	..	144
..	40 0 0	223	140	200	210	..	..	..	90	123	1,190	142	2,100
..	..	*	*	
11 7	4 2 6	83	..	16	14	..	..	..	..	50	608	..	688
3 9	1 5 9	30	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	202	202
..	5 0 0	70	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11	253	..	264
..	..	*	*	
3 7	21 15 2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	763	763
..	..	*	*	
..	11 5 0	103	121	143	89	273	298	..	43	47	1,978	411	3,403	
11 0	2 14 11	59	..	57	85	..	..	..	47	..	1,356	60	1,605
..	..	*	*	
7 6	2 15 0	39	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	186	..	186
..	..	*	*	
..	3 0 0	22	..	42	5	3	..	..	9	18	..	510	587
..	..	*	*	
0 0	1 1 6	19	..	20	18	..	18	..	..	..	44	..	100
..	..	*	*	
..	..	*	*	
..	22 16 6	96	650	800	296	..	..	..	190	50	1,913	..	3,959
19 6	14 10 6	30	..	21	18	108	..	4	..	2	..	62	112	327

be date of the earliest records.

LIBRARY ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALASIA.

Government Grants, Expenditure for Books, and Number of Visitors
of Volumes

Municipality.	Date of Establishment.	Total Grant received from Government for the Purchase of Books.	Expenditure for Books.		Number of Books Visions the Lib during 18
			Since establishment of Library.	During 1897.	
Albury	— 1888	£	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	*
Alexandria	May, 1887	200	300 0 0	NIL	3
Ashfield	Feb., 1888	200	419 8 1	15 0 0	*
Balmain	Dec., 1888	200	199 10 5	NIL	579
Berry	*	*	*	*	*
Botany	— 1886	200	204 0 0	4 0 0	40
Broken Hill	Oct., 1891	200	225 0 0	NIL	12,500
Broughton Vale	Oct., 1884	200	200 0 0	NIL	21
Burwood	*	*	*	*	*
Campbelltown	*	*	*	*	*
Camperdown	*	*	*	*	*
Canterbury	— 1886	200	240 0 0	NIL	899
Central Illawarra	*	*	*	*	*
Cobar	*	*	*	*	*
Cootamundra	Nov., 1884	200	200 0 0	NIL	508
Deniliquin	*	*	*	*	*
Forbes	April, 1883	200	123 7 7	NIL	*
Gerrington	*	*	*	*	*
Glebe	*	*	*	*	*
Glen Innes	*	*	*	*	*
Granville	July, 1890	200	200 0 0	NIL	600
Gulgong	Feb., 1890	200	200 0 0	NIL	1,000
Hay	— 1873	200	200 0 0	NIL	*
Hill End	June, 1882	100	100 0 0	NIL	*
Hillston	April, 1895	200	200 0 0	NIL	3,120
Hurstville	*	*	*	*	*
Inverell	*	*	*	*	*
Jamberoo	*	*	*	*	*
Jerilderie	*	*	*	*	*
Kempsey	*	*	*	*	*
Kiama	*	*	*	*	*
Lismore	*	*	*	*	*
Liverpool	*	*	*	*	*
Moss Vale	*	*	*	*	*
Murrumburrah	*	*	*	*	*
Narrandera	— 1887	200	189 12 6	NIL	2,504
North Botany	*	*	*	*	*
North Illawarra	*	*	*	*	*
Nowra	*	*	*	*	*
Numba	*	*	*	*	*
Paddington	May, 1892	200	446 19 4	29 10 1	12,000
Parkes	*	*	*	*	*
Pearlth	Jan., 1886	200	83 10 0	NIL	1,000
Redfern	July, 1877	200	750 0 0	22 15 8	6,000
Rockdale	June, 1890	200	274 5 4	NIL	NIL
Shellharbour	*	*	*	*	*
Silverton	*	*	*	*	*
St. Peters	May, 1879	200	200 0 0	NIL	NIL
Tamworth	*	*	*	*	*
Ulladulla	Aug., 1876	200	350 0 0	NIL	*
Wagga Wagga	July, 1874	200	200 0 0	NIL	2,000
Wallendbeen	Feb., 1897	200	216 0 0	216 0 0	500
Waterloo	Dec. 1882	200	350 0 0	0 12 8	21
Wellington	April, 1884	200	93 14 5	4 14 6	*
Wollongong	*	*	*	*	*
Young	†Sept., 1891	200	257 13 6	4 19 9	12,000

* Information not available

**ic Libraries attached to Municipal Institutions, for 1897; also, Number
April, 1898.**

Classification of Volumes in the Library on 30th April, 1898.

	History, Chronology and Antiquities, and Mythology.	Biography and Correspondence.	Geography, Topography, Voyages, Travels, &c.	Periodical and Serial Literature.	Jurisprudence, Political Economy, Social Science, &c.	Theology, Moral and Mental Philosophy, and Education.	Poetry and Drama.	General Literature, Philology, and Collected Works.	Works of Reference.	Prose Works of Fiction.	Books not Classified.	Total.
	80	35	50		16		14		6	800	387	387
	109	52	142		22	74	48	63	164	1,073	56	1,072
			349				26			303	71	1,872
											129	877
												*
	65										285	474
											567	567
												*
												*
	50	25	23				14		47	565	43	851
												*
	162		45				33	101	106	137		661
												*
	57							236		28		377
												*
												*
												*
5	97	105	130			14	135		34		91	741
	85	170							75	250	40	620
2	50	12	19				43		38	185	187	187
5	174			27	66				93		90	488
											44	620
												*
												*
												*
												*
												*
												*
5	107						55	50	50	70	85	502
												*
												*
												*
1	88	112	47				68			2,080	218	2,614
												*
	294						20		17	860	17	1,208
1	277	189	111			30	50			1,897	189	2,944
												1,032
												*
												*
												*
												*
												*
12	267	73	126	34	56	38	52		28	247	84	1,197
13	114	100	63			15	16		42	54	137	624
30	117	53	46		19		13	80	31		29	468
											975	975
74	72	131	55				33		240	602	225	1,432
86	47	21	20		23	7	45		41	397	166	833
												*
88	285	260	272				110		50	638	256	2,119

Originally established in November, 1875, as "Mechanics' Institute."

Visitors to The Public Library of New South Wales, 1869-97.

Year.	No.	Year.	No.	Year.	No.
1869 (three months—1 Oct. to 31 Dec. Reference Branch first opened) ...	17,006	1877 (Lending Branch first opened) ...	124,688	1887 (closed three months for moving) ...	139
1870	59,786	1878	117,047	1888	149
1871	63,165	1879 (Exhibition open) ...	152,036	1889	137
1872	48,817	1880	134,462	1890	155
1873	76,659	1881	136,272	1891	173
1874 (eleven months)...	57,962	1882 (eleven months)...	133,731	1892	197
1875	66,900	1883	155,431	1893	216
1876	72,724	1884 (eleven months)...	161,877	1894	339
		1885	165,715	1895	409
		1886	168,685	1896	416
				1897	410

The Public Library of New South Wales.—The "Free Public Library" was established on the 1st October when the buildings and books of the "Australian Subscription Library" were purchased by the Government. During years 1886-7 considerable additions were made to the premises, a large portion being entirely rebuilt. The new building was opened in April, 1890. In 1877 the operations of the Library were extended by a Lending Branch being attached. Certain simple regulations books may be borrowed by individuals, country Libraries, Mechanics' Institutes, and Grammar Students in Country Districts, free of charge. The Newspaper Room, formerly attached to the Reference Library, in February, 1895, transferred to the Lending Branch. During 1895 the name "Free Public Library" was changed to Public Library of New South Wales.

Visitors to The Public Library of New South Wales, 1897.

Branch.	Total Number of Visitors on Week-days.	Average Attendance of Visitors on Week-days.	Total Number of Visitors on Sundays.	Average Attendance of Visitors on Sundays.	Number of Tickets issued to Borrowers.	Total No of Visitors during the year.
Reference Library ...	167,270	563	7,617	152	.....	174,887
Lending Branch ...	77,207	261	4,224	88	5,955	81,431
Newspaper Room ...	146,490	482	8,179	160	.....	154,669

Number of Volumes Used and Issued from The Public Library of New South Wales during 1897.

Classification.	Reference Library.				Lending Branch.			
	Used on Sundays.		Used on Week-days.		Issued on Sundays.		Issued on Week-days.	
	Total.	Average.	Total.	Average.	Total.	Average.	Total.	Average.
Natural Philosophy, Science, and the Arts	Vols. 1,467	Vols. 29.5	Not available.	Not available.	Vols. 662	Vols. 13.6	Vols. 10,112	
History, Chronology, Antiquities, and Mythology	861	17.2			483	10.0	8,873	
Biography and Correspondence	967	19.3			426	8.9	7,968	
Geography, Topography, Voyages and Travels, &c.	848	16.9			721	15.0	12,031	
Periodical and Serial Literature	1,307	26.1			.....	.....	.....
Jurisprudence, Political Economy, Social Science, &c.	509	10.2			99	2.1	1,657	
Theology, Moral and Mental Philosophy, and Education	252	5.0			178	3.7	3,134	
Poetry and Drama	491	9.8			123	2.6	2,482	
General Literature, Philology, and Collected Works	2,309	46.2			495	10.3	13,816	
Works of Reference	756	15.1			.....	.....	.....
Prose Works of Fiction .. ..	.....	.....			1,397	29.1	23,510	
Total	9,767	195.3	.....	.....	4,574	95.3	88,483	

**Volumes in The Public Library of New South Wales on the
31st December, 1897.**

Classification.	Reference Library.	Lending Library.	For Country Libraries.	Total.
	Vols.	Vols.	Vols.	Vols.
ral Philosophy, Science, and the Arts	13,131	4,223	1,414	18,773
ry, Chronology, Antiquities, and Mythology	7,448	3,709	1,225	12,382
raphy and Correspondence	5,610	4,225	1,543	11,383
raphy, Topography, Voyages and Travels, &c.	7,131	3,710	1,161	12,002
ical and Serial Literature	27,736	....	59	27,845
prudence, Political Economy, Social Science, &c.	6,130	1,232	203	7,565
logy, Moral and Mental Philosophy, and Education	5,836	1,542	167	7,545
ry and Drama	3,114	964	151	4,229
ral Literature, Philology, and Collected Works	5,604	*6,556	513	12,673
ts of Reference	4,065	....	4	4,069
icates	1,316	....	....	1,316
Total	87,171	26,166	6,445	119,782

Donations of Books, &c.—During 1897 the general collection of books was increased by 5,839 volumes, inclusive of presentations and 164 books received under the provisions of the Copyright Act. Fifty-one newspapers from the Australasian Colonies and Great Britain were regularly presented to the newspaper-room, and 263 newspapers andicals published in New South Wales were supplied, as issued, under the Copyright Act.

* Including 3,240 vols. of fiction.

**Books borrowed by Country Libraries from The Public Library of New
South Wales, 1897.**

Library.	Vols. issued.	Library.	Vols. issued.	Library.	Vols. issued.	Library.	Vols. issued.
	No.		No.		No.		No.
ardeen ...	190	Dungog ...	169	Lismore ...	88	Stockton ...	189
tonville ...	167	East Maitland ...	186	Lithgow ...	225	Sutherland ...	87
nidale ...	141	Eden ...	163	Manilla ...	88	Taree ...	131
gownie ...	138	Eugowra ...	179	Marsdens ...	155	Tenterfield ...	177
lina ...	139	Galston ...	262	Menangle ...	196	Thornleigh ...	178
linger Heads ...	90	Glenhaven ...	145	Merriwa ...	137	Tocumwal ...	77
magui ...	180	Glenreagh ...	109	Metz ...	158	Toongabbie ...	178
rima ...	85	Gosford ...	154	Minmi ...	161	Walcha ...	157
ry ...	173	Grafton ...	67	Mittagong ...	133	Waratah ...	177
wna ...	155	Granville ...	155	Moree ...	58	Wellington ...	160
wral ...	161	Grenfell ...	90	Moss Vale ...	255	West Maitland ...	131
admeadow ...	251	Greta ...	264	Mount Kembla ...	278	West Wallsend ...	150
ushgrove ...	163	Gulgong ...	162	Nambucca Heads ...	158	Wickham ...	184
agendore ...	89	Gundagai ...	164	Narellan ...	180	Wilcannia ...	62
rragan ...	81	Gunnedah ...	174	Newcastle ...	166	Wollar ...	159
stain's Flat ...	173	Guyra ...	98	North Ryde ...	86	Wollongong M. ...	
ino ...	153	Harden ...	194	Nowra ...	174	Lib. ...	108
tral Tilba ...	180	Helensburgh ...	78	Parramatta ...	161	Wollongong S. ...	
sargo ...	90	Hornsby Junc. ...	153	Plattsburg ...	170	of A. ...	137
lamon ...	86	Inverell ...	79	Port Macquarie ...	174	Woonona ...	156
eland ...	197	Jerilderie ...	159	Richmond ...	89	Wyalong ...	56
aki ...	157	Jindera ...	172	Rockdale ...	85	Yass ...	187
owa ...	215	Kangaroo Valley ...	278	Sackville Reach ...	187	Young Wallsend ...	195
vra ...	89	Kenthurst ...	73	Seven Hills ...	274		
okwell ...	85	Kiama ...	183	Smedmore ...	85		
lley ...	155	Laurieton ...	70	South Grafton ...	132	Total ...	14,852

**Expenditure in connection with The Public Library of New South
Wales, 1897.**

Head of Expenditure.	Amount.	Head of Expenditure.	Amount.
aries—Reference Library and Country Exchanges	£ 3,260	Miscellaneous—Freight, Repairs, Book- shelves, Insurance, &c.	£ 316
aries—Lending Branch	1,490		
„ Newspaper Room	132	Total Expenditure... ..	£ 7,576
ks, Periodicals, and Binding	2,378		

—The administration of the Copyright Act, the editing of the Historical Records of New South Wales, and the printing of the Reference Library Catalogue are done by the staff of the Public Library of New South Wales.

LIBRARY ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALASIA.

Number of Members, Receipts, and Disbursements, Sydney Mechanics' School of Arts, 1894-97.

NUMBER OF MEMBERS, 1894-97.										
Year.	Male.	Female.	Life Members.	Total.						
1894	1,326	770	260	2,356						
1895	1,243	623	257	2,123						
1896	1,186	502	255	1,943						
1897	1,390	414	252	2,056						
RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS, 1894-97.										
Year.	Receipts.					Disbursements.				
	Subscriptions.	Government Subsidy.	Rent of Halls.	Miscellaneous.	Total.	Salaries.	Reading Room.	Library.	Miscellaneous.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1894	2,352	1,176	439	152	4,119	1,338	438	351	2,058	4,185
1895	2,050	1,025	392	93	3,560	1,333	345	343	1,936	3,957
1896	1,927	964	456	411	3,758	1,299	476	592	1,425	3,792
1897	1,909	954	585	109	3,557	1,281	346	401	1,618	3,646

Sydney Mechanics' School of Arts.—This Institution was established in 1833. The Lending Library contains upwards of 50,000 volumes. The Reference Library and Reading Room contain 3,760 works, besides newspapers and magazines. Classes for technical education, established in 1865, are still conducted, and are open to non-members; examinations are held, and certificates of ability are issued to successful scholars. The attendances at these classes were 195 during 1893, 186 during 1894, 190 during 1895, 191 during 1896, and 241 during 1897.





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